

N° 2160.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1858.

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**ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, TRAFALGAR SQUARE.**—The Exhibition of the ROYAL ACADEMY is now OPEN. Admission (from Eight till Seven o'clock) One Shilling Catalogue One Shilling.  
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**BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall Mall.**—The GALLERY with a Collection of PICTURES by ANCIENT MASTERS and deceased BRITISH ARTISTS, is OPEN daily from Ten to Six. Admission 1s. Catalogue 6d.  
GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

**MADAME RISTORI.**—The Nobility and Gentry are most respectfully informed, that the celebrated Tragedienne MADAME RISTORI, together with her Italian Dramatic Company, will give a SERIES of TWELVE PERFORMANCES, at the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE, commencing on WEDNESDAY next, June 16, with Shakespeare's Tragedy of MACBETH.

LADY MACBETH.....MADAME RISTORI.  
These performances will most positively be limited to Twelve in London and Three in the provinces. Madame Ristori's Continental engagements preventing any further extension. Several articles of great excellence have been added to the Company, and will make their first appearance in England. In addition to the most attractive Tragedies performed last year the following will also be given:—

PHEDRE. Translated into Italian, by Signor dal' Ongaro.  
ADRIENNE LECOUVREUR. Translated into Italian by Signor Verdi.

OTAVIA. By Alfieri.  
ANDER FAULS CONFIDENCE.

The Subscriptions will be for the Twelve Nights:—Pit Stalls, 10 guineas; Grand Tier Boxes, 30 guineas; Pit Boxes, 25 guineas.

Nightly Admissions:—Boxes—Grand Tier, 3 and 4 guineas; Pit Tier, 2 and 3 guineas; Second Tier, 1½ guineas; Pit Stalls, 1 guinea; Boxes, 5s.; Pit, 3s. 6d.; Gallery, 3s.

The Box Office is open from Ten till Four, under the superintendence of Mr. Andrews.

Nights of Performance. — MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, and FRIDAYS, commencing at Half-past Eight o'clock.

**HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.**—FIRST NIGHT OF LUCREZIA BORGIA.

On THURSDAY next, June 17th (it being a Subscription Night in lieu of Tuesday, July 30th), will be revived Donizetti's admired Opera LUCREZIA BORGIA, with the following powerful cast:—

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Maffio Orsini.....Mme. Albani.  
The Duke Alfonso.....Sig. Belletti.  
Gennaro.....Sig. Giuglini.

To conclude with a favourite Ballet.

On MONDAY MORNING, June 21st, a GRAND DRAMATIC and MUSICAL CONCERT, supported by all the Artists of the Establishment, and others of celebrity, now in London.

Applications to be made at the Box Office of the Theatre.

**RUBENSTEIN, JOACHIM, AND MOLIQUE;**  
Maurer, Deilmann, V. Collins, and Blagrove, will perform at MR. BENEDICT'S ANNUAL MORNING CONCERT, on MONDAY, June 21st, together with all the leading Vocalists of the Theatre. The full Programme is now ready. Early application for the few remaining Boxes and Stalls is respectfully solicited, at the principal Libraries and Music Warehouse; the Box Office of Her Majesty's Theatre; and at Mr. Benedict's Residence, 2, Manchester Square.

**MR. CHARLES DICKENS** will Read at ST. MARTIN'S HALL, on THURSDAY EVENING, June 17th, at Eight o'clock, 'THE POOR TRAVELLER,' 'BOOTS AT THE HOLLY TREE INN,' and 'MR. GAY'S' on WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, June 23rd, at Three o'clock, the story of 'LITTLE DORRIS,' and on THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 24th, at Eight o'clock, his 'CHRISTMAS CAROL.'

Stalls (numbered and reserved), 5s.; Areas and Galleries, 3s. 6d.; Unreserved Seats, 1s. Tickets to be had at Messrs. Chapman and Hall's, Publishers, 135, Piccadilly; and at St. Martin's Hall, 10, Ave.

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For plans (price 7d. each) and full particulars apply to CHARLES LEWIS GRUNHEIM, Secretary.

AUTOGRAPH SIGNATURES OF SHAKESPEARE, AND RARE AND CURIOUS BOOKS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE ENGLISH DRAMA AND LITERATURE.

**MESSRS. S. LEIGH SOTHEY AND JOHN WILKINSON,** Auctioneers of Literary Property and Works illustrative of the Fine Arts, will SELL by AUCTION, at their House, 3, Wellington Street, Strand, on MONDAY, June 14, at One o'clock precisely, RARE and CURIOUS BOOKS, illustrative of the English Drama and early English Literature, the property of a well-known Shakespearean Commentator. The Collection contains some choice Editions of Plays by Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Heywood, Marston, and others; some early English Poetry, and other rare Books. At the same time will be sold the Mortgage Deed for the Sale of a House in 1612-13, bearing the Autograph Signature of Shakespeare, the most clearly written specimen known.

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ROWLAND HILL, Secretary.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1858.

## REVIEWS.

*Pods and Poetry of Germany.* Biographical and Critical Notices. By Madame L. Davésiès de Pontès. 2 Vols. Chapman and Hall.

GOETHE is recorded to have indulged in sarcastic remarks at the expense of Klopstock's famous ode, on the contest between the German and the English muse: "The girls racing, and kicking up their heels in the dust—what a scene!" It may be true that Klopstock's way of conveying his idea was not of the happiest, but the idea itself, that the German muse is at once the sister and the worthy rival of the English, is, and remains, what another muse, related to both, would probably denominate "an eternal fact." Without dwelling on the thousand points of affinity sufficiently apparent to all acquainted with the two, we may be permitted to remark—that we have never seen remarked before—that in favoured England and Germany alone is the spring of poetry *perennial*. Grecian, Roman, Spanish, Italian poetry have had their day—"and when the sun set where were they?" Germany and England have also had their periods of "poetical darkness and owl-season," but the event has proved all such no final consummation of death, but rather intervals of healthy invigorating sleep. The nation whose imaginative vitality suffices both for a Faust and a Nibelungen,—the land that sees a Shakspeare succeeded by a Milton, and a Milton by a Shelley and a Wordsworth, may well hope to have been favoured with the grace, if not of perpetual youth, at least of perpetual renovation. Every stream, however, perennial or not, must at least have had a beginning, and it is not very easy to determine whether the most illustrious fountain of German song arose in the country itself, or flowed down to it from a Scandinavian source. This much is certain, that the personages and incidents of the Nibelungen may be almost exactly paralleled from the Eddas, and that the Icelandic poems on the subject, in their present shape at least, are older than the German. Internal evidence points in the same direction, and, on the whole, it appears most reasonable to suppose that the great Nibelungen epic was originally a Saga, and that Germany can claim only the artistic *refacimento* which has rendered it one of the noblest poems in the world. This was probably made in the twelfth century, but the poem doubtless existed in German in some shape several centuries earlier. With the same group, though referring to another cycle of traditions, may be classed several other poems of high merit, such as the 'Garden of Roses,' 'Zaurin the Dwarf,' &c. Older still is the 'Hildebrand-Lied,' a passage of which, finely rendered by Madame de Pontès, will remind many readers of our own Matthew Arnold's 'Sohrale and Rustum':—

"I heard it told that in single fight  
Hildebrand and Hildebrand summon'd each other.  
Father and son prepared their arms,  
Girt on their swords, and rode to the field.  
Hildebrand spoke; he was the prouder,  
Ay, and the wiser; he began to ask,  
Thou' with few words, who was his father,  
What was his name.

"Hildebrand spoke: Our people have told me,  
The old and the wise, that my father's name  
Was Hildebrand; I am called Hildebrand.

"Hildebrand took from his arms the bracelets  
And the rings the king of the Huns had given him:  
These do I give thee as tokens of friendship.  
Hildebrand spoke: Hildebrand's son:  
With the spear alone should such gifts be received

Point against point! thou art an old Hun,  
A clever deceiver. With words thou wouldst tempt  
me.

Hildebrand spoke: I see by thing armour,  
Thou hast at home a generous lord.  
O Supreme God! what a fate is mine!  
For sixty summers and winters I wander  
Far from my home, and now my own child  
With the sword would slay, with the axe would crush  
me."

The interval between the original draft and the completion of the Nibelungen is distinguished, first, by the religious plays of the nun, Hrosurtha, which, after having long been regarded as curiosities, have at length come to be acknowledged as creations of true dramatic genius; secondly, by the poems constituting the so-called Lombard cycle. The most remarkable feature of these is the appearance of Classical and Oriental ideas, evincing the influence which Byzantine and Saracen cultivation were beginning to exert upon the rude North. Thus, the leading incidents of 'Duke Ernest' are obviously borrowed from the Homeric myth of the wars of the pigmies and cranes, and from 'Sindbad the Sailor.' The catastrophe of King 'Ortnit' is substantially that which, could the magician have had his wicked way, would have terminated the career of that best friend of our infancy, Aladdin:—

"But the heathen monarch, as may be supposed, does not so easily forget the past, and vows revenge. Circumstances favour his designs; a hunter presents him with two dragon's eggs of great beauty, found amid the rocks, and these he sends to Ortnit, with fair words and rich gifts, assuring him that, if carefully tended, they will produce two wondrous elephants who, in their turn, will bring forth precious stones of priceless worth. The king, unsuspecting of ill, accepts the fatal boon, and the eggs are placed in a mountain cavern, where they speedily turn into two beautiful little serpents or dragons that, ere long, grow so fierce as to terrify their keeper, who, in his haste to escape, leaves the issue of the cave open, and the monsters, rushing forth, spread death and desolation around.

"The news at length reaches the king. Although monarchs are proverbially the last to hear of what is going on in their dominions, still it is difficult to conceive how Ortnit should have contrived to remain ignorant of the simple fact that the promised elephants had turned out to be serpents, but now, with true chivalrous spirit, he resolves to rid his country of the scourge he had innocently brought upon it. So, buckling on sword and armour, he prepares to set forth, despite the tears and intreaties of the queen, whose heart he had long since won by his devoted tenderness:—

"She clasped him fondly in her arms and gave him kiss  
on kiss:  
O gracious Lord of Heaven! she cried, how sad a day  
is this!

For thee I left my native land, for thee, my parents dear  
And all my heart most prized on earth, to follow thee,  
love, here.

"Then thus replied King Ortnit: Trust in the Almighty  
still,  
To Him do I commend thee, and bow unto His will.  
But whatsoever may be my fate, of this assured be,  
That never yet was woman loved as I, sweet wife, love  
thee.

"Then bold as was the hero's heart, it melted at her  
fears,  
When he beheld her anguish, his eyes too fill'd with  
tears;  
And as the lovely lady to his heart her husband press'd,  
Both wept until their burning tears bedew'd each heaving  
breast."

"Then, bursting from her embrace, the king  
rushes forth on his desperate enterprise. He has  
nearly arrived at the spot where the dragons  
generally lay, when a well-known voice arrests his  
steps. He turns and beholds Elberie, who im-  
plores him to abandon his purpose, and on his  
persisting, warns him, at all events, to beware of  
yielding to slumber, as, in that case, he will in-  
fallibly be devoured by the dragons, whereas, if

he resist it, he may yet prevail. Ortnit promises  
and, after a melancholy parting, pursues his way.  
But his terrible foes have concealed themselves in  
the clefts of the rocks, and are nowhere to be dis-  
covered. Weary and sad, the king dismounts,  
and, forgetting the dwarf's warning, sinks to sleep;  
a fatal slumber from which he is to wake no more,  
for the dragons, who have been watching their  
opportunity, emerge from their hiding-place, and,  
seizing him, bear him off to their den and devour  
him."

This tendency to borrow from foreign sources  
is an invariable symptom of advancing civiliza-  
tion; and as medieval society improved in  
refinement, the number of traditions adopted  
from the mythology of other nations con-  
tinually increased. The most remarkable of  
these were the Celtic legends of the Arthurian  
cycle. The Mabinogic tale of Peredur sup-  
plied Wolfram von Eschenbach with a basis for  
his immense epic, 'The Titurel,' and the  
story of Tristram and Iseult was wrought into  
a beautiful poem. Another abundant source  
of fiction, from the nature of things only  
accessible to an age of ignorance, consisted in  
the extraordinary perversions of Classical his-  
tory current between the extinction and the  
revival of learning. Enough, and little enough,  
of the fame of Virgil survived to render it  
possible to take him for a necromancer; and  
the Indian exploits of Alexander, looming  
dimly through a mist of obscurity and ex-  
aggeration, were readily distorted into shapes  
recalling the adventures described in Lucian's  
'True History.' Every nation has its romance  
of 'Kyng Alisaunder,' but the German is the  
best of all; and Lamprecht, the author, has  
redeemed his monstrous pictures of gold-  
accumulating ants, wild women with claws,  
and monarchs warring with fishes, by one in-  
vention of his own, full of grace and beauty.  
We give it in Madame de Pontès' translation,  
though she has not always succeeded in re-  
pressing the natural proclivity of her metre to  
doggerel:—

"We saw not far from where we stood,

A wide-extending beauteous wood,  
With trees of varied hue:  
And as we nearer drew,

There came, our ears to greet,  
Voices so wondrous sweet,  
The sounds of harp and lute;

And song, that made us mute;  
The shade was soft and deep,  
And hush'd the soul to sleep:  
Beneath the spreading bowers  
Were tender grass and flowers.

In a verdant mead it lay,  
Bedight with blossoms gay;  
Water'd by many a brook,  
That gush'd from glen and nook,  
Refreshing clear and cool,  
Or spread in glassy pool.

This wood, so beautiful and bright,  
Fill'd us with wonder and delight.  
The trees all tower'd in lofty pride  
The branches too, both dense and wide,  
Soothed and refresh'd the eye.  
The sun, tho' bright and high,  
Yet could not penetrate  
Their deep and solemn state.

We let our horses graze,  
And turn'd a lingering gaze  
Upon this region fair,  
And all the marvels there;  
For, in these forest glades,

We saw the loveliest maids,  
Wiling away the hours  
Amid the greenwood bowers,  
Laughing, dancing, springing,  
And so divinely singing.  
That, ravished by the sound,  
We stood as if spell-bound!

Forgetting all our sorrow,  
Nor thinking of the morrow;  
Wealth, splendour, rank, a monarch's lot!  
Sorrow and joy, were all forgot!  
And every grief which we had known  
From childhood, seem'd for ever flown!

Now would ye learn whence came the maids  
Thus sporting 'neath the forest shades?  
So soon as winter's icy sway  
To summer's rosy touch gives way,  
When all is fresh and bright and fair,  
And lovely blossoms everywhere

Begin to deck the world anew;  
Then up spring flowers of fairy hue,  
Of gorgeous crimson, snowy white,  
Glowing with pure and dazzling light!

Round as a ball, these summer posies;  
And, when the flower its leaves uncloses,  
To wondering eyes is then revealed  
A living maid therein concealed  
In all her charms, scarce twelve years old.  
I tell you as to me 'twas told;  
I saw them in their beauty rare,  
So gentle, maidenly, and fair!

Never in women have I seen  
A fairer face, a softer mien:  
Then, they were innocently gay,  
And so enchanting was their lay,  
That never yet has human ear  
Heard accents such as they breathed here;  
Yet, strange to tell, these beauteous maids  
Can live but in the greenwood shades!  
If once the sun's unclouded ray  
Should strike them, wither'd they would lay.  
Three months with these fair beings we pass'd.  
Why could not bliss so heavenly last?

The flowers began to die and fade,  
And with them every forest maid.

Hush'd was the music of the rill;  
The birds' sweet warbling too was still.  
The woods had lost their verdant hue,  
And these bright beings—perish'd too."

Epic composition, however, by no means exhausted the poetical activity of the age; indeed, works of this description, ponderous as they were, bore but a slight proportion to the compositions of the Minnesingers. These were in most respects the counterpart of the troubadours of the South, but having less of the character of a guild, and less fettered by rules in the practice of their art. Heinrich von Ofterdingen, immortalized by Novalis, seems to have been considered the chief in his own day, but his compositions have entirely perished, and no extant poems in this manner can vie with Walther von der Vogelweide, one of whose pieces, beautifully rendered by our authoress, may serve as an example of the Minnesingers' poetry at its best:—

"Both pure and beauteous is my ladye fair  
And chaste and lovely as the lily white;  
Her breath is balmy as the perfumed air,  
Her eyes are like the sky on summer's night:  
The strawberry is not redder than her lip,  
Would I were but a bee, its dewy sweets to sip!

"When in her bower, to lyre or lute she sings,  
The nightingale doth hush her wonted strain;  
The falcon rests upon his outstretch'd wings  
And hovers listening o'er the grassy plain.  
In all she does, there is so much of grace,  
I know not which most sweet—  
Her music or her face.

"Her beauty thaws my heart, e'en as the sun  
Thaws ice and snow; but oh! not unto me,  
Doth she show forth her beams! she is not won  
By sigh or prayer, or tuneful melody:  
And yet I've loved her from a little child,  
And sum up every hour that she on me hath smiled.

"What boots it that all others greet my lays  
With loud applause! that ladies fair and bright,  
List to my song! I only seek her praise,  
I only seek to shine in her dear sight:  
Star of my solitary heart! look down  
And soothe my bitter woe, or kill me with thy frown."

The long period from the extinction of the Minnesingers to the middle of the eighteenth century is almost a blank, marked, at best, only by the vigorous satire of Sebastian Brandt, the fiery vehemence of Ulrich von Hutten, the quaintness of Hans Sachs, the naïveté of the old puppet-show of Faust, the mystic devotion of Angelus Silesius, and the dull didactic drone of Opitz and his school. The first throes of that mighty movement of mind, which incarnated itself in the French Revolution were, however, as perceptible in Germany as elsewhere. In the pastoral ideals of Gesner, in the descrip-

tion of Haller, even in the superficial elegancies of Bodmer and Ramler, the asphyxiated muse might be seen to stir feebly, to make some effort at breathing, and even to regain a sort of dim consciousness. A powerful shock was all that was needed to revive her fully, and it was not delayed. It would be too much to say that Gotthold Ephraim Lessing re-created the literature of his country, for when a man's writings produce an immediate effect upon his contemporaries, it is a proof that he is but the child and creature of his age—the embodiment of a mass of feeling smouldering in thousands of bosoms unable to give it voice—not a reformer of his epoch *ab extra*, but the instrument by which it reforms itself. Thus, in our days even, such men as Carlyle and Ruskin are in truth merely the most conspicuous exponents of a common sentiment working in a thousand unsuspected ways; and such was the case with Lessing. The ripeness of the time is best attested by the splendour of his success. Within a few years after the Luther of *belles lettres* had opened his tremendous batteries, the enemy was driven from the field, the French canons of taste utterly overthrown, and Shakspeare exalted to a more paramount position of authority than he has ever held in his own country. From that hour to this German literature has been free, unaffected, and catholic.

To enter upon the subject of modern German literature in an essay like this would indeed be to go to sea in a bowl; so we are content to refer the reader to Madame de Pontès' book as a very useful guide, subject to certain limitations, to which we shall advert before concluding. Students may, however, derive some assistance from its being briefly stated that, setting aside exceptional writers like Voss, as well as the "Young German" school, German imaginative writers admit of a division into two classes, according as their mental tendencies are Hellenic or mediæval. The former seek the perfection of art in repose, the latter the expression of nature in variety; these would be distinct and precise, those soften every thought with a mystic halo; the former are sculptors in words, the latter painters. Goethe in his later, and Tieck in his earlier, writings, are, perhaps, the most characteristic representatives of the two schools. More we must not say—a satisfactory work on any important phase of German literature would be a great book in more than one sense.

Madame de Pontès' book is far from being one of this description; but the authoress is much too clever and sensible to be unaware of this, or to have intended it as such. It is, in the main, a very meritorious work, the production of a person of excellent abilities, a fair knowledge and a sincere liking for her subject, and unusually competent as a translator. Its sins are principally of omission, some of them sufficiently serious. Though Mr. Lewes has written a biography of Goethe, we must still think any history of German poetry ludicrously incomplete that has nothing to say of him and next to nothing of Schiller; we could as soon imagine an English literary historian ignoring Shakspeare and Milton. Nor is the book fairly partitioned among its heroes in the ratio of their importance; the authoress seems to estimate them by the interest of their lives instead of their works. Lessing's services to poetry deserve a long chapter, though he himself was little of a poet; but what shall we say to the space devoted to Herder, whose reputation rests on his prose, and to Schubart, who has no reputation at all? Bürger and Wieland

stand on a different footing, but why should they be aggrandized at the expense of Tieck, whose later works are most unfairly treated, and of Brentano, who is altogether ignored! Another ground for complaint is the incredible carelessness with which the dates are given, of which we may convey some idea by mentioning that, were we the authoress's knight instead of her reviewer, we should have to fervently assert and strenuously maintain that Bodmer published his translation of Milton fifty-eight years before he was born, and that Schulte began his 'Cecilia' fourteen years after he died!

We conclude with a translation from Chamisso, which will justify our estimate of the authoress's powers in this department:—

#### "THE THREE SISTERS."

"We are three sisters worn with grief and tears,  
Grown grey with sorrows rather than with years,  
Well versed in love, dejected and deprest.  
Each deems that hers has been the hardest part;  
Approach; the poet knows the human heart,  
Be it thy task to set the strife at rest.

"First learn my grief, how fearful and how deep,  
Starting, I woke from my childhood's rosy sleep,  
The bud burst forth! a secret thrill came o'er me,  
The breath of love drew forth each hue so bright;  
A hero raised me to his own proud height,  
And life and all its charms lay spread before me.

"Already with the bridal myrtle crown'd  
For him in whom my very being was bound,  
I watched, with mingled fear and rapture glowing;  
The marriage-torches cast their ruddy glare;  
They brought me in his corpse and laid it there,  
From seven deep wounds his crimson heart's blood flowing.

"The nameless horror of that awful night—  
That is the image stamp'd upon my sight,  
Waking or sleeping, I behold it still.  
I cannot live! to death I now belong,  
And yet I cannot die! O God! how long  
Must all these tortures last that will not kill!

"The second took the word with trembling tone:  
Oh, not of shame! of blood the form alone  
That sleeping still or waking meets her view;  
My heart too open'd to that breath divine,  
Anguish and rapture—they have both been mine;  
For me the cup of love has mantled too.

"The glory vanish'd from the loved one's head;  
I saw him selfish, mean, his brightness fled,  
And yet, alas, I loved him!—him alone!  
He went; if shame still chain him to her side,  
Or raving madness drive him far and wide,  
I know not; but the grief is all my own.

"She ceased; the third then sadly took the word:  
Thou pausest, now their sorrows thou hast heard,  
Doubtful how to decide betwixt the twain.  
Have they not liv'd and lov'd? our common doom,  
Though sorrow shroud them both in grief and gloom,  
And bid them to the dreary her chalice drain.

"In one brief sentence all my sorrows dwell,  
Till thou hast heard it, pause! consider well,  
Ere yet the final judgment thou assign,  
And learn my better right, too clearly proved.  
Four words suffice me: I was never loved!  
The palm of grief thou wilt allow is mine."

*Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century, consisting of Authentic Memoirs and Original Letters of Eminent Persons.* By John Bowyer Nichols, F.S.A. Vol. VIII. Nichols.

DR. JOHNSON avowed that no department of literature afforded him so much gratification as literary history. His taste in this respect was far from peculiar. Many a reader feels an appetite for anecdote, and a curiosity respecting the lives and characters of authors whose productions he has little care to study. The title-page of Mr. Nichols's work, therefore, excites naturally considerable expectations, which the countless host of names sown broadcast over its pages, tends still further to stimulate. Nor is the promise thus held out unredeemed. The character of "a mine of literary history," which the elder D'Israeli bestowed on 'Nichols's Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century,' is equally applicable to



the 'Illustrations,' the concluding volume of which is now before us. Its main portion consists of letters which passed between Bishop Percy and numerous persons of various ranks and degrees. The name of Percy must ever hold an honourable place among British writers. Of his correspondents many were of distinguished talent and mental culture; many others, too, it must be confessed, of no extraordinary eminence. Of this it would be unreasonable to complain. Perhaps more real knowledge of human nature may be obtained from studying the characteristics common to our race than those which are the peculiar heritage of a few; if so, the time of the reader will not be unprofitably spent in perusing the records of men who possessed no high mental powers, and made little noise in the world, but whose histories typify the every-day life of mankind far more closely than the memorials of first-class celebrities. We may seem, in these remarks, to be affecting paradox, or seeking to tax our ingenuity for an apology in favour of mediocrity. Nevertheless, we feel convinced that it is no sign of a great, or even a subtle mind, to fix one's attention exclusively on the stars of first magnitude in the hemisphere which surrounds us. Of the Byrons, Macaulays, Tennysons, we hear fully enough, but hundreds of vigorous minds and industrious pens, that build up our pyramids of journalism, swell our serials, correct, re-write, and enrich with the latest discoveries our encyclopedias and works of a similar description—a class most liable to be forgotten, *carent quia vate sacro*—these have no record except in the "faithful chronicle" of such publications as those for which we are indebted to the lettered industry of Messrs. Nichols, father and son. We cannot but think, indeed, that the memoirs given to us in the present volume take, in some cases, a too exalted estimate respecting the intellectual and moral excellences of those who are therein introduced to our notice. Far the greater number of these are represented as admirable alike for talent, diligence, and amiability. The secret of this, we apprehend, is not far to seek. The compiler is himself a man of kindness and forbearance, an honest, worthy labourer in the vineyard of letters; and in the eyes of such a one, his friends and acquaintance become clothed with similar graces. The converse of this proposition holds true also. If you hear a man rail against his fellow-men as tainted with all manner of unsocial defects, be sure that he is more or less of a jaundiced temperament "*Hic niger est*."

Amid such a mass of materials as Mr. Nichols has collected in his work it cannot be surprising that there should occur some open to exception. We must regret, for instance, the introduction into its pages of one of the most illustrious names of the eighteenth century, in connection with an absurd calumny which was refuted completely almost as soon as it was brought forward. Bishop Percy wrote on this subject to the editor of the 'Gentleman's Magazine':—

"I hinted to you that, upon inquiry, the story of Swift appears to be ill-founded. . . . Justice is due to all men; much more to the illustrious dead, whose ingenious writings are bequeathed as a treasure to posterity. There seems to be wilful misrepresentation in more respects than one."

In consequence of the above remonstrance, the ensuing retraction of the charge in question was inserted in the periodical into which it had been copied:—

"Regard for truth, and justice to the memory of the dead, call upon us to communicate the fol-

lowing intelligence, which we are persuaded will be acceptable to the public. We are now authorized to say that the story which had been told of Dean Swift, in the new edition of the 'Tatler,' and thence copied into the 'Gentleman's Magazine,' and which is there said to have occasioned him to leave his prebend of Kilroot in his youth, proves to be ill-founded."

It would surely have been better to let both the slander and its refutation rest quietly together than, after a lapse of seventy years, to exhume and expose them to the public gaze. We have no such protest, however, to enter against the publication of the letter which follows, albeit rather of a delicate and confidential nature:—

"Dr. Elkins to Dr. Percy.

"SIR,—I am obliged to you for the particulars relating to the deanery of Carlisle, which were communicated to me in confidence by the Bishop of Killaloe. I have since received a letter from Mr. Hatsell, informing me that you are desirous now of entering into some conditional agreement with me for an exchange of preferment, if I can procure your recommendation to some bishoprick that may be vacant in Ireland. . . . I wish therefore, as you do, to be direct and explicit in this negotiation, and am willing to take your deanery in exchange if either the bishoprics of Down, Waterford, Clonfert, Ferns, Dromore, Killaloe, Killala, or Ossory, should fall to my lot. . . . If you wish to be informed of the value of any of the above-named bishopricks, I will send you the reputed and, as nearly as I am able, the real value of them, as I cannot have access to any official intelligence; but I believe I may venture to assert, that none of them are under two thousand pounds per year. The value of this preferment being so considerable, I presume you would not be unwilling, if it is in your power, to procure Lord Carlisle the presentation to any living or livings you may now hold, and would resign on your removal to Ireland."

A distinguished ornament of the legal profession declared not long since, within our hearing, that he never entered a great library without a feeling of awe and humiliation on surveying the vast treasures of knowledge accumulated before him. We could scarcely forbear from smiling at the modesty of one who, in addition to the honours which he has gained in the senate and on the bench, is, moreover, "a scholar, and a ripe and good one," yet evidently but a novice hitherto in the arts which constitute the "craft of book-building." For, if from the imposing array of volumes which "cram the creaking shelves," we take away those which, under a diversity of forms, are in matter mere duplicates of others; again, if we proceed to eliminate those which, like algebraic quantities of opposite signs, or antagonistic qualities in chemistry, serve to neutralize or extinguish each other,—the *residuum* might appear far from formidable, especially if further reduced by expunging from the catalogue those works which, though of undisputed originality, are so trivial in character as to be mere lumber of the memory. Even after all these deductions, the most important of all still remains to be made—the writings, namely, of party historians, together with works professedly biographical, wherein, by conjectures, suspicions, omissions, and a plentiful admixture of subjective truth, which is objective falsehood, a man's life may be so disguised that we can accept nothing as certain, save the date of his birth, marriage, and death. Such a charge, at least, cannot be laid against the publication which we have now had under review. Certainly, in no class of compositions are men's thoughts poured forth so freely, their minds laid so

honestly open, as in familiar letters, such as form the principal part of the present volume.

A word, before we conclude, in reference to the frontispiece engraving of John Nichols, F.S.A., which is, we venture to deem, a true likeness, beaming with kindness and intelligence, of the honoured editor of the 'Gentleman's Magazine,' and stamps itself on our imagination as the representative of a whole senate of majestic author-publishers, to whom Brennus himself—had Brennus been a reviewer—would not have dared to offer an affront. We now congratulate heartily the compiler of the work before us on the completion of his laborious and useful undertaking.

*Friends at their own Fireside; or, Pictures of Private Life of the People called Quakers.*  
By Mrs. Ellis. 2 Vols. Bentley.

It is, we see, announced by the public journals that some board, or meeting, or committee of credit and renown among "the people called Quakers," has offered a prize for the most satisfactory investigation into the causes of the numerical decline now and for some time past observable in the sect. The complaint is of long standing; and, as well from patent facts as our own less reliable ratiocinations, we should be disposed to say no less incurable than inveterate. If we regard this as, on the whole, matter for congratulation, it certainly is not from any idea that religion is likely to gain anything from the extinction of one of the most benevolent and charitable of religious bodies. The descendants of those who are now forsaking the Society of Friends cannot excel the piety of their forefathers: they will surpass our expectations if they retain it. The gain is purely negative: it is a small matter that a few estimable men should discard certain external religious badges, but a great matter that they should no longer be compelled to maintain them by intolerance and popular misapprehension. Such a moral compulsion is, in our view, the real secret of the prolonged vitality of Quakerism. Steadfastness of profession became not merely a duty arising out of conviction, but a point of honour. This it was that gave permanence to what, in its origin, was a mere breath of enthusiastic feeling, and so doomed by its very constitution to pass away. This congealed the fickle billow into an icy mountain; this made the shape of a hat a matter of conscience, and the anti-Priscianic use of pronouns a genuine testimony to the truth. Paradoxical as it seems, the least worldly of sects really owed its continued existence to that very worldly point of honour which its members professed to regard as the most deplorable of vanities. The world's discovery that Quaker peculiarities were neither wrong nor ludicrous, occasioned the Quakers' own discovery that they were neither honourable nor rational. It was the old fable of the contest between the sun and the wind.

It may be said that we are taking a narrow and superficial view of Quakerism, dwelling upon its unimportant, external peculiarities, to the neglect of its substance and essential idea. The answer is, that everything vitally distinctive of Quakerism has long ceased to be peculiar to it. It needs but a moderate acquaintance with the schools of theology that exert the most marked influence on modern thought to discover that the much decried doctrine of "the inward light" is in one shape or another confessed by them all. One man calls it reason and another faith, another intuition, and another communion with the Divinity; but



they all mean at bottom much the same thing. This being so, Quakerism, as distinguished from other creeds, becomes a mere bundle of oddities, and if, in Coleridgean phrase, you "bark a Quaker," you find, not indeed that he is "a poor creature," but that, according to his notions of church government or exegesis, he is a liberal churchman, a Baptist, or a Unitarian. One chance remains,—cannot Quakerism preserve its individuality by retaining its semi-monastic character, as "a kingdom not of this world." Alas! the gales of piety now blow in quite a different direction from that which they maintained in the days of Charles II. In that licentious time religious men thought, and thought justly, that the further they could keep apart from the world the better it would be for their religion. Now things are changed, the profane world is better, the religious world worse, and men have discovered that the separation of human things into sacred and profane at all was from the beginning a mischievous mistake, founded on no essential principle of truth or reason, and leading to the worst hypocrisy and unreality. Such is now the doctrine of every religious teacher of eminence, from the elder Newman to the younger Newman, and thus placed between two fires, an object of attack to the serious as well as the frivolous, it is plain that the strict separation from the world so long characteristic of Quakerism cannot be much longer maintained.

Whether the writer of the forthcoming prize essay will have the candour to take these points into consideration, is more than we can say; and it is hardly likely that such a line of argument would do much towards recommending him to his peculiar class of readers. But it will certainly be to his loss if he neglects to consult Mrs. Ellis's pages. The authoress has a *primâ facie* claim to be heard, having, as we gather, been a Quakeress herself in early life, but having subsequently felt called upon to exchange the denomination of her birth for some other—probably the Established Church; she ought, therefore, to know something both of the strength and the weakness of Quakerism; and her revelations tend to confirm our previous impression, that the sect is dying out, not from any sudden blow or weakness newly made palpable, but simply because the cessation of irritating opposition has left it nothing to resist, and the change of religious sentiment nothing to uphold. Nothing but external peculiarity, and the habits of thought and feeling it engenders, distinguishes Mrs. Ellis's religious characters from the average Churchman or Protestant Dissenter; and sensible people will not long remain separate from the world for the sake of a mere unmeaning badge. The only real difficulties in the way of union are those of tradition and prejudice—not without weight, as Mrs. Ellis can tell us:—

"It is scarcely possible in the present day, when so many have voluntarily resigned their membership on conscientious and religious grounds, to imagine what it was to be dismissed at the time alluded to; nor, indeed, could the real pain, the disgrace, the family affliction, resulting from such dismissal, be understood without some insight into the social clanship by which the members of the body are bound together. Nor was it formerly the disunion alone which had to be considered; nor the rupture of old ties, with the breaking up of old habits and associations. There was a kind of isolation which those who ventured upon this step were always made to feel, accompanied with a sense of ignominy which it required a strong motive or a brave spirit to enable any one

to endure. Then there were all the tender lamentations of those who wept over the lamb departing from the fold, blended perhaps with insinuations from other quarters, not the most charitable, as to the sincerity or correctness of the motive for such a step. So that all these influences, and many more than can be specified here, combined to hem in the whole community as by one social compact, almost as effectually as the novice is hemmed in within the convent walls."

It is clear, however, that this "clanship" is but the correlative of an estrangement from the world certain to cease as soon as the world shall cease to give occasion for it. Social rather than religious questions, form the subject-matter of this book, which contains much that is very curious and instructive in a psychological point of view. The influence of Quakerism on the young would alone afford matter for an essay of no inconsiderable magnitude. The authoress gives proof of a fair insight into the system she describes, and, considering her position as a convert, the entire absence of acrimony is creditable to her good sense and good feeling. As a novel, this is infinitely superior to her previous compositions, being, extraordinary to relate, neither prosy, didactic, nor dry. The descriptions are graphic, the characters well defined; there is a great air of reality throughout, the inevitable morality is for once in place, and the authoress's honest desire to give a correct transcript of what she has actually known, has happily prevailed over her old propensity to tedious sentimentalizing. The great drawback is want of power; we are always interested, never excited or absorbed. This, however, is all the more characteristic of the composed, unimpassioned sect which, with all its deficiencies, we respect too highly to intend anything but a compliment in styling 'Friends at their own Fireside' a very Quakerly novel.

*Rambles in the Islands of Corsica and Sardinia; with Notices of their History, Antiquities, and Present Condition.* By Thomas Forester. Longman and Co.

THIS book is the result of two distinct visits to Corsica and Sardinia. In 1853 Mr. Forester travelled through these islands with a companion who was as expert with the pencil as he was with the pen. In the first journey notes and sketches appear to have been taken for the purpose of making a book; but, from some unexplained reason, the book was not completed, till a second visit in 1857, for the purpose of assisting in the laying down of the electric telegraph to Algeria, revived the author's almost blunted purpose. This long delay between making the notes and working them up into a book, takes a little from the freshness which is so indispensable a quality in a book of travels. But, with this exception, Mr. Forester's 'Rambles' are very amusing, and convey a good deal of information respecting the history, antiquities, and present condition of the islands—information which the reader could not easily find elsewhere in so readable a form.

Of the two islands, Corsica appears to be much the more salubrious, wealthy, and well-governed. In the mountainous districts of Capo de Corso, a sort of peninsula stretching out to the north of the island, and measuring about twenty-five miles long by from five to ten wide, there are full a hundred resident families of considerable wealth. The island is intersected by military roads, constructed under the direction of the first Napoleon—the only boon he conferred on his native country; and

under the stern but salutary rule of his nephew brigandage and the *vendetta* have been entirely put down. The country is parcelled out into *prefectures*, governed, under the *prefet*, by a kind of municipal parliament, and commercial enterprise appears to be fast introducing its civilizing influence among the people.

Sardinia, on the contrary, seems to be a sort of Ireland for the government at Turin. Hither are sent functionaries with damaged characters, who either fall into the hands of the native jobbers in places and pensions, or are quietly shot out of the way. These functionaries are, of course, both ignorant and conceited, and are, therefore, hated and despised by the natives, who, finding that the laws are not administered with even-handed justice, take the law into their own hands. Hence the *vendetta* still claims its victims, and bands of outlaws, who infest every mountain and fastness, and levy black-mail upon the peaceful inhabitants, live and prosper in Sardinia.

Though Corsica is not much visited by Englishmen, yet Mr. Forester even here found some of our countrymen, whom the tyranny which Mrs. Grundy exercises at home has driven to live by choice in places to which the Romans, under the emperors, were relegated for grave crimes. The island of Monte-Cristo, celebrated in the novel of Dumas, lies on the east coast of Corsica. It was the scene of the exile of St. Maximilian, under the Emperor Diocletian. Its only subsequent inhabitants were a convent of monks, who were afterwards carried bodily off by the Saracens. They were succeeded by immense herds of wild goats. These have finally given place to Mr. Watson Taylor, who has purchased the island of Monte-Cristo, and there built a house, in which he now resides like a true *Milord Anglais*. It is about nine miles in circumference, and produces vines and olive-trees in abundance.

But it may not, perhaps, be generally known that Corsica itself once formed as much a part of the British dominions as Ireland; and but for the stupid mismanagement of our Government, might now be a valuable portion of our colonial empire. King Theodore, with whose strange history the readers of Horace Walpole are familiar, was reposing in the churchyard of St. Ann's, Soho, when the crown of Corsica was offered to George III., and accepted:—

"In the face of the new invasion threatened by the French Republic, Paoli perceived that there was nothing to be done but to call the English, whose fleet hovered on the coast, to the aid of the Nationals, and place the island under British protection. The first fruits of this alliance were the reduction of San Fiorenzo and the surrender of Bastia to the bold attack of Nelson. The fall of these fortresses was succeeded by the siege of Calvi, in which Nelson also distinguished himself; and on the reduction of that place—Ajaccio and Bonifacio being already in the hands of the patriots—the French troops withdrew from the island.

"Corsica being once more free to establish a national government, the representatives of the people, assembled in a convention at Corte on the 14th of June, 1794, accepted a constitution framed by Pascal Paoli, in conjunction with Sir Gilbert Elliot, the British Plenipotentiary. By this national act the sovereignty of Corsica was hereditarily conferred on the King of Great Britain with full executive rights; the legislative power, including especially the levying of taxes, being vested in an assembly called a parliament, composed of representatives elected in the several *pieves* and towns. All Corsicans, of the age of twenty-five years, possessed of real property (*beni fondi*), and

domiciled for one year in a *piève* or town, were entitled to vote at the elections. The king's consent was required to give force to all laws, and he had the prerogative of summoning, proroguing, and dissolving the parliament. A viceroy, appointed by the sovereign, with a council and secretary of state, were to execute the functions of government. The press was to be free. In short, the Kingdom of Corsica—so called even under the dominion of the Genoese Republic—was to be a limited monarchy, with institutions nearly resembling those of Great Britain, except that there was no House of Peers.

"The subject has some interest, even at this present day, as showing how the principles of a limited monarchy were adapted by such a man as Pascal Paoli to a *quasi*-Italian nation, than which none could be more ardent in their love of freedom, or have made greater struggles in its cause. The Constitutional Act will be found in the appendix to Mr. Benson's work. It is curious also to find that in the time of our George III. a kingdom in the Mediterranean was as closely united to the crown of Great Britain, as the kingdom of Ireland was at that time.

"Sir Gilbert Elliot was appointed viceroy. Unfortunately, with the best dispositions, his government was not administered with the tact required to conciliate so irascible a people as the Corsicans. While the viceroy was personally esteemed and beloved, he pursued a course of policy little calculated to calm the irritation which speedily arose. Pascal Paoli felt disappointment at not having been nominated viceroy, and was suspected of secretly fomenting the disaffection to the government. So far from this, he published an address to his countrymen, endeavouring to allay the ferment, and induce obedience to the English authorities. Jealousy, however, of his great and well-earned influence over the Corsicans appears to have led to his removal from the island. Towards the close of the year 1795 the king's command that he should repair to England was conveyed to him, couched, however, in gracious terms. He immediately obeyed, and arrived in London towards the end of December.

"No sooner had Paoli departed than discontent assumed a more alarming form. His presence and example had kept many calm who had been secretly hostile to the English, but who now openly displayed their animosity. Petitions were presented to the viceroy by some of the leading inhabitants assembled at Histuglio, declaring the grounds of Corsican opposition, and proposing means of conciliation; while many bodies of the disaffected assembled in the wild neighbourhood of Bocagnono. These disorders, coupled with the mutual distrust with which the Corsicans and English viewed each other, finally led to the abandonment of the island by the latter; and, accordingly, between the 14th and 20th of October, 1796, the viceroy and troops, under the protection of Nelson, embarked for Porto Ferrajo, leaving the island once more a prey to French invasion."

Chestnuts form the chief food of the lower orders, and are introduced at the tables of all the inhabitants in various forms:—

"There are several cantons, Murato being one of the principal, in which the chestnut woods, either natural or planted, are so extensive that the districts have acquired the name of *Païse di Castagnicia*. The Corsican peasant seldom sets forth on a journey without providing himself with a bag of chestnuts, and with these and a gourd of wine or of water slung by his side, he is never at a loss. Eaten raw or roasted on the embers, chestnuts form, during half the year, the principal diet of the herdsmen and shepherds on the hills, and of great numbers of the poorer population in the districts where the tree flourishes. They are also made into puddings, and served up in various other ways. It is said that in the canton of Alesanni, one of the *Castagnicia* districts just referred to, on the occasion of a peasant making a feast at his daughter's

marriage, no less than twenty-two dishes have been prepared from the meal of the chestnut.

"I recollect that the innkeeper at Bonifaccio, boasting his culinary skill, said that he could dress a potato sixteen different ways, and though we earnestly intreated him not to give himself the trouble of making experiments not suited to our taste, it was with great difficulty, and after several failures, we made him comprehend that an Englishman preferred but one way—and that was '*au naturel*.'"

"The cultivation of the potato has made considerable advance in Corsica, and there are now seventeen or eighteen hundred acres annually planted with it. But in many parts of the island the chestnut fills the same place which the potato once occupied in the dietary of the Irish peasant. A political economist would find no difficulty in deciding that in both cases the results have been similar, and much to be lamented. Indeed, the Corsican fruit is still more adapted to cherish habits of indolence than the Irish root, as the chestnut does not even require the brief exertion, either in cultivation or cookery, which the potato does. It drops, I may say, into the Corsican's mouth, and living like the

"*Prisca gens mortalium*,"

'the primitive race of mortals,' of whom the poet sings, who ran about in the woods, eating acorns and drinking water, the Corsicans are, for the most part, satisfied with their chestnuts literally '*au naturel*.'"

"Most French writers on Corsica declare war against the chestnut-trees for the encouragement they afford to a life of idleness, and M. de Beaumont does not scruple to assert, that a tempest which levelled them all with the ground would, in the end, prove a great blessing. There is some truth in these opinions, but humanity shudders at the misery such a catastrophe—like the potato blight, which truly struck at the root of the evil in Ireland—would entail on tens of thousands of the poor Corsicans, to whom the chestnut is the staff of life. In the interests of that humanity, as well as from our deep love and veneration for these noble woods, we say, God forbid!

"Many years ago an attempt was made to discountenance the growth of chestnuts, by prohibiting their plantation in soils capable of other kinds of cultivation; but shortly afterwards the decree was revoked on the report of no less a political economist than the celebrated Turgot. *Vient donc ces châtagniers magnifiques, quand même!* And may the Corsicans learn not to abuse the gifts which Providence gratuitously showers from their spreading boughs!"

It seems almost incredible that any man, even a political economist, should be guilty of such absurdity and such wickedness as to grudge the poor a food which they can obtain easily and in abundance. What is the first requisite for mental improvement? Leisure—the being able to live without manual labour. But because the chestnuts conferred this inestimable blessing of leisure upon a class which, according to the political economist, have no business to think, down were to come the chestnut-trees. In their place the philosophers would have had mines and factories, in which Sardinian men, women, and children should be subjected to labours which would degrade their minds and bodies, while the blessing of leisure should be confined to a few capitalists, whose business it should be to govern the said degraded men, women, and children. Long may the chestnut-trees of Corsica and Sardinia stand, in spite of the philosophers, to beautify the country, to shed the blessing of abundance on the poor, and to enable them to enjoy the boon of leisure which in less favoured lands is enjoyed by the rich alone.

We have already observed that brigandage and the *vendetta* have been put down by the clear head and strong hand of Louis Napoleon. But, until lately, every man went armed, and the slightest affront was sure to end in bloodshed. The wise used to laugh at the fight which raged so hotly between opposing sects of religionists some years ago in England about black and white gowns; but it appears that the controversies of the English religious world are, after all, not more frivolous than disputes, which often ended in bloodshed, among the Corsicans:—

"Ridiculously trifling as the origin of this bloody quarrel may appear, the story is very probably founded on fact. Renucci relates another scarcely less absurd. Feuds, similar to those mentioned in the play, had long existed between the Vincenti and Grimaldi families, inhabitants of the village of Monte d'Omo, in the *piève* of Ampugnano. Like good Catholics, however, they met sometimes at mass. The church was sacred and neutral ground; there, at least, the *trêve de Dieu* might be supposed to be in force. Thither, on some solemn feast, the villagers indiscriminately bent their steps. Some had already entered the church, and were engaged in their devotions, many loitered about the door, and the *piazza* was crowded. Talking about one thing and another, the conversation naturally turned to the ceremonies of the day, and a dispute arose whether the officiating clergy ought to wear the black hoods of the Confraternity in the processions which formed part of the service.

"Orso Paolo, one of the Vincenti family, gave it as his opinion that they should wear their surplices, alleging that to be the ancient and fitting custom.

"'No!' cried Ruggero Grimaldi, 'they ought to wear the black hoods;' giving reasons equally authoritative for his view of the question.

"The strife waxed warm. The villagers took one side or the other; 'hoods,' and 'surplices,' became the party cries. From words they came to blows, and Orso Paolo, the only man of the Vincenti family present, being sore pressed in the struggle, rashly drew out a pistol, and mortally wounded Ruggero Grimaldi's eldest son."

From the few specimens of English whom the Corsicans have had an opportunity of observing, they have learned, it seems, to form but a low estimate of our religious condition. Mr. Forester was careful to correct their mistake on this head, when questioned on the subject at Vivario:—

"We were objects of much curiosity. Whence did we come? where were we going? what was our business?—were questions of course.

"'From London.'

"'Sono chiesi in Londra?'

"'Inglese—sono tutti Christiani!'

"It may easily be imagined that the communal schools in Corsica give little instruction in ethnology; and even intelligent persons, like our former guide Antoine, appeared to doubt our right to be called Christians. That was often questioned, the people seeming little better informed than they were when Boswell travelled in Corsica, almost a century ago.

"'Inglese,' said a strong black fellow to him, '*sono barbare; non credono in Dio grande.*'"

"'Excuse me, sir,' replied Boswell; 'we do believe in God, and in Jesus Christ too.'

"'Um,' said he, '*e nel Papa!*' (and in the Pope?)

"'No.'

"'E perche?' (And why?)

"This was a puzzling question under the circumstances, for there was a great audience listening to the controversy. So Boswell thought he would try a method of his own, and he very gravely replied:—

"'Perche siamo troppo lontano.' (Because we



are too far off.) A very new argument against the universal infallibility of the Pope. It took, however, for his opponent mused awhile, and then said:—

“*Troppo lontano! Ha—Sicilia è tanto lontano che l'Inghilterra; e in Sicilia si credono nel Papa.* (Too far off! why Sicily is as far off as England; yet in Sicily they believe in the Pope.)

“Ah!” said Boswell, *Noi siamo dieci volte più lontano che la Sicilia.* (We are ten times farther off than Sicily.)

“Aha!” said the questioner; and seemed quite satisfied. ‘In this manner,’ concludes Boswell, ‘I got off very well.’”

Boswell's vanity hinders most people from doing justice to his really good qualities. Few men but he could have turned off a useless discussion so wittily.

In Sardinia Mr. Forester had some wild-boar hunting; but the beast of the chase which is peculiar to the island is the Moufflon, a creature between a sheep, a goat, and a chamois. Sardinia is comparatively well known, and we have already passed the bounds of our space; we must therefore refer our readers to the book itself for an account of the *Nuraghe*, and the many superstitious rites still practised by the Sardes, and supposed to have been derived from the Phœnicians, which the church for a long time endeavoured in vain to eradicate. Amongst these, one of the most curious is the lighting of fires on St. John's-Eve, and leaping through them, supposed to be a remnant of the worship of Moloch, and of Phœnician origin, and the offering up of a phallic emblem, surrounded by flowers. This last custom is now lately disused, having at last given way to the urgent remonstrances of the clergy. The book closes with an account of the laying of the electric cable to Algeria in 1857. It is illustrated by some excellent chromo-lithographs, engravings, and a good map of the island, and is most beautifully “got up.”

#### FRENCH NOVELS.

*Maitre Pierre.* Par Edmond About. Paris: Hachette.

*Scènes de la Vie Militaire au Mexique.* Par Gabriel Ferry. Paris: Hachette.

It would be impossible for M. About not to write pleasantly on any subject; consequently those who take up ‘Maitre Pierre’ in the hope of passing an agreeable hour or two in his society will not be disappointed. Yet, on the whole, this latest of the author's productions is in some degree a failure. It is more stuffed with statistics than becomes a novel, while it is too much interspersed with fiction to be valuable as a work of reference. Maitre Pierre himself, the Landais peasant, who has set himself the task of reclaiming the wild desert of the Landes, and making it bud and blossom as the rose, is a disappointing character. We cannot decide how much of his portrait has been taken from real life; how much of it is merely an offspring of the writer's brain. It is of little consequence—nay, it is rather an agreeable surprise than otherwise—when a character whom we had imagined to be a fictitious one, turns out to be a living, breathing fellow-creature; but when the reverse is the case we cannot get rid of the disagreeable fancy that we have been cheated, and we consequently have a grudge towards the person who has hoaxed us. If Maitre Pierre be a veritable Maitre Pierre, he is indeed an extraordinary person; if, on the other hand, *non è vero, è ben trovato.* Unable to read, unable to write, nothing

daunts him; he takes no rest night or day, until by conference with others, and diligent, shrewd, far-sighted observation on his own part, he has matured the plan by which, through the means of draining and planting, he hopes to render the barren plains and reedy bogs of the Landes capable of tillage. At the time of M. About's visit to the Landes, the system recommended and practised by Maitre Pierre had already been attended with surprising results, and M. About considers that the day is not far distant when these wastes will be converted into one of the most fertile portions of France. A strange and curious district it is in truth at present: a sandy desert, over which the inhabitants stalk on stilts; in which the mirage is as common as it is in the Sahara; and where the bull and the wild horse not long ago roamed at their will. Here also are to be seen moving mountains; villages buried beneath the sands, and lakes where the storms are more terrible than on the open seas. Over the whole of this district is spread a thin layer of sand, beneath which is a stratum of *alios*, hard enough to turn the edge of a pickaxe; and it is this *alios* which is the cause of all the barrenness of the Landes; no water can penetrate it, and, as it rains during six months of the year, anything planted in the sand which covers it, soon rots away and dies. This surface-water, constantly stagnant as it is, is also a fruitful source of the fevers from which the inhabitants of the district are scarcely ever free. Taking these things into consideration, and remembering also the vast extent of land comprised within the limits of the Landes, it becomes a matter of no small moment that no means should be left untried to bring the district under cultivation, and we, therefore, wish every success to Maitre Pierre, Louis Napoleon, and all those who of late years have been turning their attention to the subject.

From what we have hitherto said, it may be imagined that ‘Maitre Pierre’ has little claim to the title of a novel, yet there is enough story in it to satisfy the demands of even the most exigent on these matters. In the delineation of the mayor of Bulos, one of the characters, M. About has shown no little humour and appreciation of character. The worthy official has constituted himself a kind of patron of Maitre Pierre, and takes to himself all the honour and glory of his achievements. On one occasion this little weakness of the good man shows itself after a very amusing fashion. He finds that M. About is an author, and after a little conversation on the subject, interspersed with questions on the part of the Mayor as to the style of thing M. About is about to write respecting the Landes, and hearing that it is his intention to write something like a book, he says:—

“You are right; you will find plenty to say. As for myself I am too old to undertake these kinds of things, and besides that, men of action seldom write much. But if I were to meet with a story well told, about something which interested me greatly, I should be capable of anything. Nay, God forgive me, I would buy the book. Would it not be possible to invent, as it were, a story in which a traveller loses his way some winter's evening, in the neighbourhood of Bulos? He fears to be devoured by wolves, to fall into bogs, to die of hunger, in one word, all the things that travellers are afraid of in books. Happily he is overtaken by a carriage (I have one), and by a rich man (I am rich), who has served in the army (I served my seven years). He is astonished to meet in this out-of-the-way place with so well-educated a man, so wise in fact, and one who

expresses himself as eloquently as though he lived in the metropolis. He learns—and it is a very agreeable surprise to him—that the wolves are destroyed, that roads abound all over the commune, and that instead of dying of hunger, strangers can find everything in abundance. He is shown the wonders of the commune, and when, full of admiration, he asks who is the creator of all these great works, his friend answers with a blush, “It is I.” It appears to me the book might finish with those words.”

“You are very good,” I said, clasping his hand. “He continued: ‘The danger would be to get entangled in Maitre Pierre's long stories. First, all that he says is not gospel. Then, I suppose that an author like you would not feel very much inclined to tell all the world that he made an excursion in the company of this vagabond. Then again people *comme il faut* don't care to read stories about Bohemians, whilst they are interested at once in a dignified narrative, where only rich landed proprietors figure, together with wholesale merchants, justices of the peace, mayors, and officials. This is why literary men have never hitherto said anything about this Pierre.’”

Now our readers know why the name of Maitre Pierre has hitherto never reached their ears, and if they will turn to M. About's book they will learn more of the worthy mayor of Bulos than he would, perhaps, quite like that they should be told concerning him.

M. Ferry's ‘Scenes of Military Life in Mexico’ is a series of amusing tales; and by those who have already made acquaintance with the author in his ‘Costal l'Indien,’ and in his previous book wherein he gives such a curious insight into the city life of the Mexican people, these sketches of the War of Independence will be heartily welcomed. Amongst the series there is only one story provided with a heroine; all the others concern principally the exploits of a certain guerilla captain, by name Ruperto Castaños, who played no mean part in the war by which the Mexicans sought to throw off the yoke of the hated Spaniard, not hesitating in order to do so, to seek the aid of the French, who had been always represented to them by their priests as “heretiques damnables et damnés.” Between M. de Bellemare, *alias* Gabriel Ferry, and Cooper, the North-American novelist, there are many points of resemblance; in some respects Ferry is superior to his predecessor, but his range of subjects is much more limited; and when we have been introduced to some dozen or so of his characters, we find that we have exhausted his repertory. As far as he goes, however, he is excellent; his style is full of animation and variety; and he has the power—so rare nowadays in authors—of placing his readers in the very midst of the scenes which he describes, instead of talking about them as one who knows them merely by hearsay. He is fortunate, too, in breaking up new ground, for the province of Mexico has not hitherto been overmuch trodden by the feet of story-tellers; and of a country so interesting in itself, and connected with so many spirit-stirring remembrances, it would scarcely be possible not to say something which should take hold of the mind of the reader, and make him wish to learn still more of those vast deserts where, as M. Ferry says, the Latin race of the south, which is ever striving northwards, and the Anglo-Saxons, who in their turn seem to be driven towards the south, appear to be fated to meet; and where it also seems that the fusion of the two antipathetic races is destined by Providence some day to be accomplished.



## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*The North-West Passage, and the Plans for the Search for Sir John Franklin: a Review.* By John Brown, F.R.G.S. E. Stanford.

*Collections of the Surrey Archaeological Society.* Vol. I., Part 2. Reeve.

*The Heirs of Cheveleigh.* By Gervase Abbott. 3 vols. Longman and Co.

*The Cardinal.* By the Author of 'The Duchess,' &c. Bentley.

*The Ladies of Bever Hollow: a Tale of English Country Life.* By the Author of 'Mary Powell.' 2 vols. Bentley.

*The Confessions of a Catholic Priest.* J. Chapman.

*The Poor Relation: a Novel.* By Miss Pardoe. 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.

*Will He Marry Her?* A Novel. By John Lang, Author of 'Too Clever by Half,' 'The Forger's Wife,' 'The Wetherbys,' &c. &c. Routledge.

*Preachers and Preaching.* By the Rev. Henry Christmas, M.A., F.R.S., F.S.A., F.R.G.S., M.R.S.L., Professor of British History and Archaeology in the Royal Society of Literature, and Thursday Morning Lecturer at St. Peter's, Cornhill. Lay.

*Introduction to English Etymology.* By Robert Armstrong, English Master, Madras College, St. Andrew's, and Thomas Armstrong, Heriot Foundation School, Edinburgh. Sutherland and Knox.

*Practical Arithmetic for Senior Classes.* By Henry G. C. Smith. Oliver and Boyd.

*The New Zealand 'Emigrants' Bradshaw; or, Guide to the Britain of the South.* Stanford.

*An Historical and Critical Commentary on the Old Testament, with a New Translation.* By M. M. Kalisch, Phil. Doc. M.A. Genesis. English Edition. Longmans.

*The Butterfly Vivarium; or, Insect Home, &c.* By H. Noel Humphreys, Author of 'British Moths and their Transformations,' &c. Lay.

*Cosmos: Sketch of a Physical Description of the Universe.* By Alexander von Humboldt. Vol. IV., Part I. Translated under the superintendence of Major-General Edward Sabine, R.A., D.C.L., V.P. and Treas. R.S., &c. Longmans, and Murray.

*Will He Marry Her?* is a novel of the true circulating-library type, full of inexplicable mysteries, harrowing scenes, noble sentiments, and bloody battles. We are introduced to the hero, Augustus Reckless, as a freshman at Cambridge, where he soon fraternizes with a "fast," but gentlemanlike set; and here we are initiated into all the mysteries of wine-parties and the other incidents of undergraduate life. At Cambridge Reckless becomes the bosom friend of William West, a sizer, but a gentleman both by birth and in feeling, but of course very poor. West is the son of an officer, and his great ambition is to obtain a commission in the army; but where is the money to come from? Well, a certain John Chayworth has a family living of 4,000*l.* a year waiting for him, but hitherto all his efforts to pass the degree-examination have proved fruitless. At length West "coaches" him, and gets him through; Chayworth in gratitude lends him 500*l.* to buy his commission, and he and Reckless are both gazetted on the same day. To finish off their life at the university they both go to Bury for "a lark." Reckless appears on the stage, and West applauds in the pit. For this offence West is expelled, and Reckless, being the son of a baronet, is only reprobated; but having been already gazetted, they bid defiance to the authorities, and leave the university with flying colours. Reckless, meanwhile, has fallen in love with the beautiful daughter of Colonel Ormsby, of the Indian service, who has purchased a place near his father's; but there is some mystery about the lovely Leonora. She refuses to marry him till he has seen her in India, whither her father, unlike most Indian colonels who have amassed large fortunes, is about to proceed. Meanwhile she gives him a ring with a diamond in it, which turns black on the approach of a storm, and is possessed of divers virtues, which make it worth an Indian principality. We expected that something was to come of this; but we were disappointed. The mysterious diamond leads to nothing. Sir Edward Ferret, who has been a brother officer of West's father, is now made Governor-General of India, and takes out the two young men on his staff. Arrived in India, Reckless discovers that Leonora Ormsby is the daughter of a Rance, and, hesitating to marry, is discarded by her. He

and West are soon, however, engaged in the stirring events of the Sikh war, and distinguish themselves in the battles of Sohraon and Chillianwallah, and, on their return home, obtain their majorities, and are made C.B.'s by special favour of the Duke, the dying words of whose son, Arthur Plantagenet, they report to him. And now West marries Reckless's sister, and Reckless, the beautiful Leonora, who, unable to subdue her affection, has followed him to England. But, after the ceremony has been performed, and before the guests have left the breakfast-table, she dies suddenly, and in a few minutes turns jet-black. The moral of the story is, that it is wicked for a white man to marry a half-caste woman. Reckless, now a widower, returns to India, and, like Roland, finds the grave he coveted on the battle-field. This novel deals with characters and incidents which have no place in real life, and introduces threads which are never woven into the texture of the story, but hang out in a weak and unconnected manner. Nevertheless there is a certain bustle about the action which keeps the interest quite sufficiently alive to suit the ordinary run of novel-readers. The heroes, Reckless and West, always utter excellent sentiments, and are equally irresistible in love and war. The love scenes we must protest against: they are tremendous.

We have often wondered how it is that the half hour in every week during which we are obliged, as a respectable householder, to listen to a gentleman of good education delivering an address upon a subject of deep interest, is the most irksome in our whole life, and we never could make it out until we read Mr. Christmas's book on *Preachers and Preaching*. From this we have learned the various stratagems which clergymen employ against our comfort. "Fore God, they are all in a tale." One, it seems, is anxious to melt our stony heart by means of the "historical" style; another tries the "literary," another the "scientific," another the "controversial and political," another the "poetical or picturesque,"—we hold the poetical and picturesque young gentleman in especial horror,—another the "eccentric." We learn with astonishment for the first time, that the painful wriggling of the hands and feet, and the unnatural hoarseness of the voice, which we supposed to be poor Mr. B.—'s infirmity, are really the result of deep study and careful preparation, and are intended to have a deep and solemnizing effect upon us. It seems that these are the usual artifices of the preaching profession, for which rules are given. The theological part of the question is out of our line; but we observed the following historical mistake. Mr. Christmas says:—"Bourdalone remained perfectly still, but in a grand and noble posture, during the whole of his sermon; and kept his eyes closed, save when, from the shortness of his memory, he was obliged to have recourse to his MS., which, contrary to the French custom, he was necessitated to take into the pulpit with him." The idea that Bourdaloue preached with his eyes closed is derived from an American author, who wrote a work of fiction some years ago, about the French preachers of the reign of Louis XIV., and has no other foundation than the fact that, the common portraits of Bourdaloue, having been taken after his death, represent him with closed eyes. The rest is merely the filling in of the picture to suit this central feature. From a life of Bourdaloue, by M. Anot de Maizieres, we learn that "his action was lively, his enunciation rapid; in mind, soul, and body he was an orator."

In their *Introduction to English Etymology*, the Messrs. Armstrong refer a long list of English words and particles to their roots in Anglo-Saxon, in Latin, in Greek, in French, in Italian, in Spanish, in German, and in Arabic. Many of their etymologies are ingenious, and most appear to us to be correct; but we do not see the general rule by which each word is traced to its original.

For instance, it is not apparent why such words as *vouchsafe* and *front* should be referred to Latin rather than to the Anglo-Norman.

*Practical Arithmetic*, by Mr. Smith, seems to be a useful school-book.

*The New Zealand Emigrants' Bradshaw* is a useful guide-book for persons intending to emigrate to that colony. They will find not only sketches of the history, physical features, animals, and government of the country, but practical hints on the agricultural implements they should take with them, on the most eligible manner of investing their money, and settling themselves on their first arrival. These particulars are enlivened by original letters from New Zealand colonists, and prefixed is an excellent map of the colony.

Theology and Biblical criticism are quite out of our province. We shall therefore content ourselves with stating the fact that an English edition of Kalisch's *Historical and Critical Commentary on the Old Testament, with a new Translation*, is in course of being published by Messrs. Longman. Two volumes have come out, one an expansion of the other, and containing the Hebrew text. M. Kalisch maintains the opinion, as far as we can make out, that the Scriptures are not only not verbally, but not even virtually inspired; but he expresses great admiration for many of the principles which they mythically enforce: as, for instance, the essential unity between man and wife, involved in the myth of Eve's being taken from Adam's side. The translation follows the common English version very closely. In some places where it departs from that version, it may be more correct; but in others it is simply unidiomatic. For instance, in Genesis i., M. Kalisch reads:—"And God said, Light be; and light was." This is not English; it is merely a translation of Hebrew words into English words, which, in such a sequence, mean nothing. Other translations are in bad taste, as when the sword with which the cherubim kept the way of the tree of life is called the "flame of the corsucant sword." Such a word as "corsucant" is but little in keeping with the severe simplicity of the narrative, and the form of the expression is like "light be," an attempt to transplant a Hebrew idiom into English. This is not, on the whole, a book which, in our opinion, will be acceptable to English readers. To the large class amongst us who offer a sort of idolatrous worship to the letter of the Bible, and even to the letter of the common English version, it will, of course, be *anathema maranatha*; while those who do not believe in the inspiration of Scripture, will not be able to see why such respect should be paid to the mythology of an Aramean tribe settled in Syria. Like most German theology it is too sceptical or not sceptical enough for the English mind.

The success of vivaria for fish and crustacea suggested to Mr. Noel Humphreys the idea of a vivarium for insects, for the construction of which he gives directions in *The Butterfly Vivarium; or, Insect Home*. Entomologists have at all times found it necessary to make use of some kind of vivarium, for the purpose of observing the changes which insects undergo before arriving at their perfect state. The tin box with a perforated lid for ventilation, the card-board trays for silkworms, or the wooden box sunk in the ground, with a wire lid, and filled with the various kinds of caterpillars, are, in fact, all vivaria. But the speciality of Mr. Humphreys's plan is to make the vivarium an ornamental object for a drawing-room. With this view, he proposes that it shall consist of a glass case, with proper ventilation at the top; that part of the bottom shall be filled with earth, in which plants, such as are fed upon by insects, shall be planted; that another part shall be devoted to a tank, for the benefit of such as delight in water; and that in the earth shall be inserted bottles for holding sprigs of such plants as are too large to grow in the vivarium. We cannot gather from the directions whether or not Mr. Humphreys has himself

tried the experiment, or seen it tried by others. An ornamental glass case filled with plants on the leaves of which should appear beautiful caterpillars of various colours, and metallic beetles glittering in the sun, while around the flowers should flit moths and butterflies, and dragon-flies with their gorgeously-painted or delicately-reticulated wings, would certainly form a very attractive object. Whether such a vivarium could be maintained in good working order or not, is, in our opinion, doubtful; but, even as a book for initiating the unlearned into the mysteries of popular entomology, this little work is worthy of all commendation. The writer has a practical knowledge of his subject. His acquaintance with butterflies, and moths, and beetles, and dragonflies, in all the stages of their development, is evidently personal, not derived from books. He discourses of them in an easy and familiar style, which cannot but prove eminently attractive to the youthful entomologist; and we can safely say that Mr. Humphreys has produced a pleasant book on a very attractive subject.

The fourth volume, part I., of General Sabine's English translation of Humboldt's *Cosmos; or Sketch of a Physical Description of the Universe*, will be welcomed by all lovers of science. This volume treats of the magnitude, figure, and density of the earth, magnetic forces, earthquakes, thermal springs, and volcanoes. Then follow the author's rectifications, additions, and notes. The editor has also added notes; and to the whole is appended an index. We reserve our review of the work till the whole has appeared.

#### New Editions.

*The Earls of Kildare and their Ancestors, from 1657 to 1773.* By the Marquis of Kildare. Third Edition. Dublin: Hodges, Smith, and Co. 1857.

*The Practice of Magistrates' Courts.* By William Saunders, Esq., of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law, Recorder of Dartmouth. Second Edition. "Law Times" Office.

RECENT changes in the law have made a second edition of Mr. Saunders's useful work on *The Practice of Magistrates' Courts*, a desirable addition to legal literature. In this edition the two new Acts, 'The Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act' and the 'Act to Improve the Administration of the Law as respects Summary Proceedings before Justices of the Peace,' the one conferring upon magistrates an entirely new jurisdiction, and the other providing for the reservation of a case for the court above upon their decision in summary proceedings, have each a chapter allotted to them.

#### Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

*Tracts for the Manchester School.* No. 1.—*The Cotton Dearth.* By Thomas Ballantyne, 'Statesman' Office.

*Naval Rank, as expressed by its present Titles, a Naval Wrong, and a National Injury.* By Navalis. Second Edition, revised. Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

*A Letter to the Right Honourable the Lord Advocate of Scotland on the Necessity of a Change in the Patronage of the University of Edinburgh.* By Professor Ferrier, LL.D. Sutherland and Knox.

*The Cotton Dearth* forms the first of a series of pamphlets called *Tracts for the Manchester School*. Its object is to show the folly of continuing dependent upon America for cotton when India could produce all that we have need of. Twenty millions were given to the West Indian planters for the abolition of slavery; and during the last three years the manufacturers of Lancashire have, by purchasing slave-grown cotton, paid twenty millions to the United States for the encouragement of slavery. But slavery in the United States is in a very precarious state. Mr. Ballantyne quotes from Mr. Stirling to show that the Southern planters are extremely nervous, and entertain serious apprehensions as to the possibility of much longer maintaining their nefarious system. Then, unless India is prepared to take their place, the manufacturers of Lancashire are at a standstill. This tract is ably written.

The republication, after fourteen years, of *Naval Rank, as expressed by its Present Titles, a Naval Wrong, and a National Injury*, is but too plain a proof that the grievances of which it complains still remain unredressed; and yet it is certainly not from its want of ability or of foundation that this pamphlet has as yet produced no effect upon the Lords of the Admiralty. We know how "the bubble reputation" and its representative rank are valued by soldiers and sailors, and how sensitive they are upon this point, and that the latter are, by their titles, continually placed in a position inferior to the former. A naval "captain," or "commodore," though really holding the rank of a colonel in the army, or a brigadier, is necessarily confounded with a military captain, who really bears the rank of a naval lieutenant only. This injustice extends through the titles of the whole service, and is productive of material as well as nominal injustice. We heartily wish that, in these reforming days, a remedy may be applied to this evil; but the old titles must be so interwoven in men's minds with the old associations of our naval glory that we hardly expect it.

The Scottish Universities are now making a push to raise themselves above the condition of commercial schools to one more resembling that of what we understand by the word "university." Among other reforms, it is urged that the patronage of the University of Edinburgh should not continue to be vested in the town-council. In *A Letter to the Right Honourable the Lord Advocate of Scotland, on the Necessity of a Change in the Patronage of the University of Edinburgh*, Professor Ferrier endeavours to show the unfitness of that body for the function of choosing the educators of Scottish youth, for the following reasons:—1. The intensely sectarian spirit of the town council. It appears that the *odium theologicum* overrides every other consideration with these worthy citizens; that no one but a dissenter from the Established Presbyterian Kirk has now any chance with them, the Establishmentarians having formerly distributed their patronage in an equally exclusive spirit. This intense sectarianism we take to be a necessary consequence of the 2nd plea which Professor Ferrier urges against the town council,—their want of education. And, indeed, it would seem strange to us if the professors of Oxford or Cambridge were to be chosen by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen. The 3rd plea is that the town council being tradesmen, are liable to be intimidated by any customer who feels himself to be aggrieved by a vote given at the election of professors. It is represented, 4thly, that the election of professors is incompatible with the other more peculiar functions of these respectable citizens. The picture of the sufferings these excellent tradesmen undergo on the occasion of an election is so heart-rending, that we are sure it must move our legislators to a compassionate consideration of their wrongs. "While these contests last," says Professor Ferrier, "their lives are rendered perfectly unendurable. What between the solicitations of members of Parliament, of advocates, of writers to the signet, of doctors, of ministers of all denominations, of old women of both sexes, of bluestockings, of ladies interesting and uninteresting, of people of all professions and of none, of busybodies of every rank, of bores of every calibre,—verily they have a pretty time of it! They cannot call their bodies or their souls their own. They have no leisure to attend to their proper avocations. The trade of the metropolis runs a risk of being unhinged. No debtor was ever so pestered by his duns, as these unfortunate councillors are worried by their canvassers. Some of them have been known to go into hiding for days previous to the election, in order to avoid such killing importunities. The picture of an overgrown town councillor, doubled up between two feather-beds during the dog-days, in order to elude the keen-scented beagles of the Free Church, or the sleuth-hounds

of the Establishment, is a spectacle which would border on the ludicrous, if it did not trench too touchingly on the pathetic. This is scarcely a position consistent with magisterial dignity and decorum. The civic corporation of the metropolis of Scotland ought not to be exposed to such unbecoming contingencies; but they can only escape them by relinquishing the patronage which is their cause. Let them give up this fatal privilege, which to them is pregnant with innumerable woes. Let them cease to arbitrate on the claims of rival scholars and philosophers, and they will be rewarded with the approval of an untempted conscience, the enjoyment of an undistracted life, and the restored confidence of their fellow-citizens." If the Northern universities are to be raised above the condition of commercial schools, the mere statement of this case is sufficient to show the absolute necessity of a change.

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#### ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

#### REPORT OF THE ASTRONOMER-ROYAL TO THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH.

(Read at the Annual Visitation of the Royal Observatory, 1858, June 5.)

I PROPOSE to include in this report a record of the principal transactions in the Royal Observatory between 1857, May 23, and 1858, May 21, and a statement of its condition on 1858, May 21.

1. *Grounds and Buildings.*—In the older parts of the Observatory buildings the changes made are very small. A doorway at the east end of the principal range of observing buildings, or the east side of the Transit Circle Room, which has been repeatedly opened and closed, is again opened, and it now presents (as will be further explained) the advantage of a covered entrance into the Observatory. When the small room for the zenith tube, on the south side of the passage between the Computing Room and the Transit Circle Room, was erected, no provision was made for opening the window; and the appearance of the star in observation impressed on the observers the opinion that better ventilation was required. The window has been so altered as to admit of this ventilation, and the observers have no doubt that the image of the star is much improved. The visitors will remark a change in the north window



of the Octagon Room. An alteration has been made in the exterior of the Altazimuth Tower, with a view of bringing its appearance into harmony with that of the other buildings of the Observatory. The buildings generally are in good order.

The new south-east dome has been constructed in exact conformity with the plan explained to the visitors at their last meeting, and is in nearly all respects ready for reception of the equatorial. Its place is at a very small distance from the south-eastern corner of the Record Room, where there was exactly space enough to allow three passages around it (the principal passage to the magnetic ground, a passage between the dome and the Record Room, and a passage on the edge of the garden), which it was indispensably necessary to preserve. The stove, with underground draft, answers well for warming the two lower stories. The drum dome, whose external diameter is 32 feet, is constructed with vertical standards upon a horizontal curb, tied by diagonal iron hoops, covered with very thin boarding, and then covered with zinc. In planning this frame, I omitted to notice that a considerable stress is put upon the two principal standards which form the sides of the vertical shutter opening, and between which there can be no diagonal tie, and that in consequence there would be a sensible bending of the jointed curb when one of these standards should bear immediately upon one of the cannon-balls. A long piece of stiff iron curb, passing under the feet of these two standards and for some distance on both sides of them, is prepared, and is at the Observatory; its mounting is deferred for convenience only. I anticipate that it will entirely remedy the inconvenience that I have mentioned. The rack for motion of the dome is fixed to the wall; the machinery which acts on it is carried by the dome, and the person who turns the winch to move the dome is always on the side opposite to the shutter-opening, and therefore sees the object to which the telescope can be directed. The machinery for opening the two shutters is on the same side as the shutter-opening; the jointed rack for the vertical shutter, and the single rack and counterpoise for the horizontal roof shutter, answer very well. A misunderstanding of a draftsman, which was not discovered till it was too late to remedy it, has left less room between the great north iron support of the equatorial and the ring of the curb than I designed, and in consequence the winches of the dome and shutter mechanism are compressed more than I could wish. I have not yet arranged an apparatus for fixing the dome, to prevent it from receiving an oscillation from the action of the wind. Other points of interest will be best seen in the building itself.

The passage on the north side of the east buildings and the Record Room, and the approach to the door of the south-east dome, are protected by a roof of rough glass. The whole of the astronomical buildings, and the communications between them, and the approach from the entrance gate, are now under dry cover; with the exception of the Galvanic Room, which it will be difficult to connect with the others in the same way, though it would be very desirable to effect it.

A new principal map of the grounds and buildings has been prepared. The detail plans and sections of the buildings are kept up as changes are made.

2. *Movable Property.*—The words of the last report to the visitors might be cited as perfectly applicable to the present time. We have in charge the old Cape altazimuth and sundry standards; we have lent two small clocks, a magnet, and a book. A part of the Observatory property, connected with our galvanic operations, is invested in the South-Eastern Railway. The official copy of the yard standard appears to be in good condition. Our catalogues of movable property are amended from time to time.

3. *Manuscripts.*—Our manuscripts are in good

order. Continual attention is given to the collecting and binding of the papers which accumulate in the ordinary course of business, whether as produced by the internal work of the Observatory, or by the multifarious business (not always of astronomical character) from extraneous sources. A modification of the manuscript catalogue will soon be necessary.

The papers of the Board of Longitude are now finally stitched into books, in the arrangement in which we usually send our manuscripts to the bookbinder. They will probably form one of the most curious collections of the results of scientific enterprise, both normal and abnormal, which exists.

4. *Library.*—No great number of books has been added to the Library, serial works being however kept up. The catalogue to which allusion was made in the last report, is in use.

5. *Astronomical Instruments.*—The transit circle is in good order. The fault of insulation of the galvanic part, to which I alluded in the last report, was speedily remedied. A small change has lately been made in the western pier which carries the microscopes, of this kind. The visitors are aware that the illumination of those parts of the limb which are under view of the microscopes is effected by a single central lamp, on the external side of the pier, shining through holes which are perforated through the pier; and that in each hole there is a lens for intensifying the light upon the limb, and that the accurate reflection of the light from the limb up the tube of the microscope will depend in some measure on the position of the lens, and therefore a power of adjusting the lens is desirable. The only way of adjusting the illuminating lenses, which had been used in practice, was to force wedges of different thicknesses between the sides of the brass tubes containing the lenses and the sides of the holes in the stone pier. The change now made is the following: The interior of the stone pier is cut, to a small distance beyond the circle of illuminating holes, into the form of a concave spherical surface of which the lamp is the centre. To this surface of the stone are fixed concave brass plates, properly perforated in correspondence with the holes of the stone, and upon these the brass rings, which carry the illuminating lenses, are fixed by thumb-screws passing through large holes that allow a considerable range of adjustment. I trust that we shall now make the appearance of the divisions under the microscopes unexceptionably good.

Mr. Simms, and Messrs. Ransomes and Sims, are at present engaged in preparing a transit circle for the Observatory of San Fernando, near Cadiz, similar to that at Greenwich (or rather to that at the Cape of Good Hope). Artificial stones of Portland cement, bearing the proper perforations, have been prepared here for the microscopic pier. The blocks are shaped for the reception of concave brass plates, for adjustment of the illuminating lenses, in the manner which I have just described.

I have lately had reason to think that the indications of the transit circle external thermometer have increased, so that it now reads too high by perhaps half a degree.

The zenith tube is quite satisfactory. The image of the star, since a free passage of air was allowed from the window, is almost always very good. No observation, I believe, is ever lost now from tremor of the quicksilver.

The altazimuth is in good order. The error in the angle, between the horizontal axis of the vertical circle and the vertical axis of revolution, is not yet corrected; an attempt was made to unscrew the bolts which connect the Y's with their brackets; but the connection was found to be so firm, that I have thought it best to defer further operations until I shall have the assistance of a competent engineer.

The chronographic barrel apparatus is in good order. Detailed plans of this mechanism (on which, at the date of the last report, a draftsman

was employed) have been prepared, and are attached to the description which is circulated with the published observations of 1856.

The galvanic apparatus, so far as it is included within the Observatory, is in good order. By some parts of this our system of sympathetic clocks are kept in motion; by other parts our time-ball is dropped, and hourly currents are transmitted to the South-Eastern Railway, and the Lothbury Station of the Electric Telegraph Company (from which communications are made at 1<sup>h</sup> to our time-ball at Deal, and to other time-balls in the Strand, Cornhill, and Liverpool); by other parts currents are sent for maintaining the action of a clock at the South-Eastern Railway Station, by which communications are automatically altered; by other parts we possess the power of giving touch signals, from the eye end of the transit circle, to any of the wires of the Electric Telegraph Company, or of the British and Submarine Company. The communications, however, external to the Observatory, have been in a bad state. The four wires to London Bridge were injured, as we have reason to believe, by a thunder-storm in the last autumn; and from the circumstance that the injured part is buried in the South-Eastern Railway, and that trains are running at every ten minutes during the day, it has not been possible till lately to open the ground for examination. I trust that they will now, in the early morning hours, be examined and made good. Our other communication to London, by the Admiralty subterraneous wires crossing Blackheath, has also been in a bad state, but is now made nearly perfect. These faults, (as will be stated hereafter) have in some measure impaired the efficiency of our external galvanic action.

The north equatorial is in an imperfect state as regards the measure of hour angle: it is still applicable to the measure of north polar distance.

The east equatorial and the double image micrometer, commonly used with it, are in good order.

For the new south-east equatorial, the object-glass was furnished by Messrs. Merz and Son in the summer of last year, and I made various trials of it in a temporary tube carried by the temporary mounting which I had provided, and finally I was well satisfied with it. I cannot yet say that I have certainly divided the small star of  $\gamma$  Andromedæ, but for such a test a combination of favourable circumstances is required. From what I have seen, I have no doubt of its proving a first-rate object-glass. The north support of the polar axis (wanting the small part at the top, which immediately supports the pivot) and the adjustable parts of the south support (also wanting some parts) are mounted in their places. No other parts of the instrument are here, but almost the whole of the work is in Messrs. Ransomes and Sims's workshops, very nearly ready. The hour circle will probably be divided before the time of my presenting this report, and this will enable the engineers to cut the teeth for the action of the worm of the clock-work, and also to finally fit together the polar frame. (I may remark, that in the temporary erections of the polar frame the engineers have expressed themselves satisfied and almost surprised at the stiffness given by its bracing.) The hour circle clamps and slow motions, the declination axis, the declination circle, the declination circle clamps and slow motions, and the clock-work, are in different stages of advance. The old instruments of the Observatory have been preserved untouched.

6. *Astronomical Observations.*—Our principal attention, as heretofore, has been fixed upon those objects which may be considered fundamental. The meridional system is carefully preserved. In regard to stars observed on the meridian, the greater part of the observations have been devoted to the large clock catalogue, of which the stars are never allowed (if possible) to pass unobserved in any year. Some observations, however, have



been given to moon culminators, occulted stars, stars favourable for zenith points, stars with Mars and with comets, stars with large proper motion, low stars for refraction, variable stars, stars used for the longitude of Edinburgh, and stars observed at the request of private astronomers. In regard to moveable bodies observed on the meridian, the moon is never omitted; the sun and planets are omitted on Sundays; the planets also are omitted after 15<sup>h</sup>, unless when the moon passes after 15<sup>h</sup>. The chronographic method is exclusively used for transits of planets and of stars not very close to the pole (unless the galvanic apparatus is deranged).

The following is the tale of meridional observations from 1857, May 23rd, to 1858, May 21st:—

Transits (two limbs, or two methods of observation being counted at two) ...	5,024
Pairs of observations of collimators with the transit telescope ...	309
Observations of transit wires by reflection ...	304
Observations of collimator by collimator ...	52
Circle observations of all kinds ...	4,714
Observations of zenith distance wire by reflection (included in the last) ...	293

The system of observations for adjustment is the same as for several years past.

The errors of graduation for every 1° of the meridian circle having been determined by the operation of last year, these have been taken as basis for determination of the errors of graduation of certain divisions in the series of arcs of 5'. Observations have been made and reduced for determining the errors of those divisions which fall under the microscopes in observations of Polaris, Polaris S.P., and the wire by reflection, which come into use far more frequently than any others.

The number of double observations of  $\gamma$  Draconis with the reflex zenith tube is 109, or 218 single observations.

With the Altazimuth:—The total number of observed azimuths of moon and stars is 788; of the collimator, 424. The total number of observed altitudes of the moon is 407; of stars (for time only), 4; of the collimator, 424. The complete observations of the moon on days when her meridian passage occurred between 0<sup>h</sup> and 1<sup>h</sup> solar time, are 2; between 1<sup>h</sup> and 2<sup>h</sup>, 2; between 2<sup>h</sup> and 3<sup>h</sup>, 11; between 21<sup>h</sup> and 22<sup>h</sup>, 2; between 22<sup>h</sup> and 23<sup>h</sup>, 1; between 23<sup>h</sup> and 24<sup>h</sup>, 0. The whole number of days of complete observations of the moon is 210, or about 16.9 per lunation. The corresponding number on the meridian is 122, or about 9.8 per lunation.

I may here remark, that the erection of the new south-east dome will slightly interrupt the observations of the morning moons. As viewed from the altazimuth, the new dome occupies about 15° of eastern horizon, to the height of about 10°. As that space of 15° occurs nearly in the central portion of the moon's azimuthal range of rising, and as that whole range, on the average, is not far below 90°, the interrupted part will correspond nearly to an interruption in the view of about one-tenth of the whole number of moon-risings, to the height of 10°. I believe that, on the average, there are not ten observations in the year which it is necessary to take so near to the eastern horizon as 10°; and, therefore, I think we may estimate the loss of observations of the moon from this interruption at about one in a year.

With the double image micrometer, measures of Venus have been made on nine days, measures of Jupiter on four days, and measures of Mercury on one day. Considerable attention has been given to the determination of the scale of the micrometer. It is clearly established that the scale is sensibly equal in different parts of the field, although some discordances have appeared between the results of different days.

Other observations are: 24 occultations of stars by the moon, and 56 phenomena of Jupiter's satellites.

The excessively bad weather on the day of the solar eclipse of 1858, March 15, made it impossible to take at Greenwich more than two or three measures of north polar distance of cusps scarcely worth recording. With the assistance of the Rev. George Fisher and John Riddell, Esq., of the Greenwich Hospital Schools, and of six skilful and intelligent lads of the Upper School; and aided by the cordial hospitality of William Blower, Esq., of Bedford; Charles Simpson, Esq., of Harrowden, near Wellingborough; and W. De Capell Brooke, Esq., of Market Harborough; I organized three well-appointed observatories (one nearly on the central track, and one at each side of it), equipped for the purpose of making numerous measures of the distance of the cusps, by means of which the apparent correction to the diameters of the sun and moon, and the absolute correction to the elements of the moon's path, would have been found with great accuracy. Only at Bedford, however, were a few observations obtained. In regard to all its real objects the expedition failed entirely.

**7. Reduction of Astronomical Observations.**—In the department of right ascensions from meridional observations, the deduced apparent right ascensions of centre of object are prepared to May 16, and the deduced mean right ascensions of stars to May 8. Personal equations and corrections for defective limb of the moon are applied to the end of 1857. Mean solar times are formed to April 30. In the department of north polar distances the reductions are entirely completed to May 8, excepting only the small corrections for imperfect illumination of the moon's limb, which are completed to the end of 1857. It is to be remarked, that the circle observations were interrupted for a few days after May 8 by the operations of workmen on the pier, for mounting the adjustable illuminating lenses; since the workmen left, the observations were resumed, and the reductions to the state of concluded circle reading are nearly finished for current observations.

The ledgers of stars' mean R.A. and mean N.P.D.; the annual star catalogue; the comparison of observed places, and diameters of sun, moon, and planets, with tabular places, in all their steps, and the exhibition of heliocentric errors were required, all in longitude and ecliptic polar distance, are completed for 1857. Various parts are finished to the end of April, 1858.

For the reflex zenith tube, every reduction is complete to the end of 1857, and daily reductions to the present time.

With the altazimuth, the azimuths are completely reduced to April 3, and everything to the application of errors of collimation as far as May 7; the zenith distances complete to May 7; the tabular computations complete to May 7, and wanting only the applications of semi-diameter, to May 15; the errors of tabular R.A. and N.P.D. deduced to April 3; and the errors of tabular longitude and E.P.D. to the beginning of February.

The equatorial observations of Brorsen's Comet are nearly reduced.

The double image micrometer observations are reduced to the end of 1857.

The reduction of occultations also is complete to the end of 1857.

On the results of the computations I may remark: The personal equations of chronographic transits, deduced from the observations of 1857, range (as compared with Mr. Dunkin) from -0.14 to +0.18. The range has undoubtedly increased. I cannot conjecture a cause for this.

The periodic and the occasional changes of azimuth of the transit circle, as inferred from observation of circumpolar stars, without sensible variation of position relative to the collimators, still continue. It also appears (as before) that the eastern pivot rises when the temperature rises.

The determination of the colatitude from the observations of 1857 has given me some anxiety. The observations of Polaris (upon which the result

principally depends) indicate that the assumed colatitude ought to be reduced by 0".4; and this is supported as to sign, though not as to magnitude, by the three stars which stand next in importance; namely,  $\delta$  Ursæ Minoris, Cephei 51,  $\beta$  Ursæ Minoris. The results from other stars have a somewhat mixed character. I cannot offer a conjecture on the cause of this change. On examining the observations of Polaris month by month, using in all cases transits above and below the pole, it appears that the observations of the summer months require a larger negative correction to colatitude than those of the winter months, and a preliminary inspection of the observations of preceding years seems to point to a similar conclusion.

The azimuth zeros of the altazimuth are still found liable to fluctuation with changes of temperature, and the reading of the collimator does not change to the same amount. There is no doubt of the advantage of adopting the zero determined from a star observed on the same night as the moon if possible. With this caution, the results of observation are extremely good, very nearly equal to those of the meridional instruments; perhaps I might say that three observations with the altazimuth are equivalent to two with the transit circle.

**8. Printing of Astronomical Observations.**—The volume for 1856 has been circulated lately. It contains, as appendix, a description of the chronographic apparatus; the delay in the circulation of the volume arose from the accumulation of several small delays in the preparation of the plates for the description.

For 1857 the transits, with the transit circle, are printed to May 1; the zenith distances, with the transit circle, to May 14; and the azimuths, with the altazimuth to June 5. The apparent slackness of printing will cause no ultimate delay, as we have learnt with what rapidity Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode proceed when the pressure of parliamentary business is removed. The number of copies printed is 350.

A large part of the impressions of former years is at present stacked in the lower room of the new south-east dome.

**9. Magnetical and Meteorological Instruments.**—Little change has been made in these since the last report.

Among the magnetic instruments: the free two-foot magnet, suspended by a silk skein, carrying a collimator for view by a theodolite, and carrying a concave mirror for the formation of a spot of light on the photographic cylinder; the bifilar magnet carried by two skeins of silk, and the vertical-force magnet rocking on knife edges, each carrying a plane mirror for observation of a graduated scale with a fixed telescope, and each carrying a concave mirror for formation of a spot of light on a photographic cylinder—are in good order. The absolute force apparatus is, I believe, in a good state.

The dipping needles I should assert to be in excellent order were I not baffled by the following observations. It was suggested to me by Professor Hansteen, that the tools and processes of chronometer-makers are better adapted to produce truly cylindrical pivots than those of opticians. I therefore requested Mr. Dent to prepare for us two dipping needles, in addition to the two made by Mr. Barrow or Mr. Robinson. One of Barrow's needles was broken by accident. In addition to the remaining three needles, our own property, we have had trials of needles—prepared for the expedition on the Oregon Boundary, and for Father Secchi. Mr. Glaisher and his subordinate observers have been very anxious to make every observation as good as possible; and the necessity of extreme caution, suggested by the apparent faults to which I alluded in last year's report, has never been put out of sight. I think I may also say, that these gentlemen have exercised the rare virtue of independence in every observation. The observations have sometimes

been made in the meridian, and sometimes in two azimuths differing 90°. With this care it might be expected that the results, though perhaps irregularly discordant, would show no systematic discordance. The fact, however, is this: In all cases the observations in the meridian and out of the meridian give accordant results. The different needles give nearly the following value of dip:—

R. Obs. Barrow 2	...	...	68° 30'
R. Obs. Dent 1	...	...	68° 17'
R. Obs. Dent 3	...	...	68° 25'
Secchi 1	...	...	68° 24'
Secchi 2	...	...	68° 23'
Haig 1	...	...	68° 17'
Haig 4	...	...	68° 19'

I am disposed to rate the uncertainty of determinations of dip as much greater than it is estimated by many magnetic observers.

In the Meteorological Department, the barometer and thermometers of the four classes of dry, wet, maximum, and minimum, for eye-observations; also the barometer and dry and wet thermometers for photographic registration, are the same as before. Two of the long thermometers plunged in the ground, as I mentioned in the last report, had given trouble by their superabundance of fluid. Mr. Negretti, with great practical skill, opened them, withdrew five degrees of fluid, and resealed them. I am almost apprehensive that there is now scarcely enough of fluid.

The Osler's self-registering anemometer and pluviometer has at times failed properly to discharge (by its syphon) the full charge of water, and has always been defective in delicacy for the register of light winds. Messrs. Negretti and Zambra, I believe, have now made the pluviometer-discharge perfect, (some alterations have also been made under my direction for improving the delicacy of its motion), and they hope to make the motion of the anemometer pressure-plate sufficiently easy. I have lately suggested to them a new principle of mounting of the pressure-plate, which I think may possibly answer the purpose better than that now used. I have attached to the vertical spindle of the vane a mechanism of wheel-work, for counting the number of revolutions made by the spindle in a long time.

Thermometers are attached to the new *Dreadnought* hospital ship, for measure of the temperature of the Thames water, as heretofore.

All this establishment appears to be in good order.

**10. Magnetical and Meteorological Observations.**—The instruments which I have mentioned have been employed with the most continuous regularity, by combination of photographic or other self-registering operation for uninterrupted record with occasional eye-observations for determination of zeros. The thermometers in the magnet boxes have been read at twenty-four consecutive hours, once in every week, to the end of 1857, with the purpose of obtaining materials for reducing anterior observations (the thermometers having always been read four times a day, and the system of illumination not having undergone the least alteration for several years). The observations of the maximum and minimum thermometers in the Thames, interrupted at the date of the last report, have been resumed, and are most regularly maintained. Regarding the Thames as the grand climatic agent on London and its neighbourhood, I should much regret the suppression of these observations.

In the present year, we have commenced to refer our observations to Greenwich instead of Göttingen time. The selection of time may not be unimportant, for the following reasons:—If an extensive system of magnetic observatories, well distributed over the earth, should be again equipped, I trust that simultaneous observations from time to time may form a part of their duties. These observations ought to be as strictly simultaneous as possible. In photographic records it is not easy, without apparatus devised specially

for the purpose, to answer for the time within three or four minutes, and therefore I shall contemplate the employ, at these times, of eye-observations throughout. These could be made with considerable precision, exactly at the time pre-arranged; and it will, therefore, be desirable that the most perfect understanding exist as to the meridian to which that time is to be referred.

**11. Reduction of Magnetical and Meteorological Observations.**—For reducing the eye-observations, equivalents and temperature corrections are applied for the declination and horizontal-force magnetometers to the present time, and for the vertical-force magnetometer to the end of 1857. The zero of the theodolite is prepared and applied to the end of 1857. The reductions of the dip-observations are kept up close. The first parts of the reduction of deflexion-observations are prepared to the last month; the whole are completed to the end of last year; as are also the mere vibration-observations. Ordinary meteorological observations are reduced to the present time, and meteorological observations of all kinds to the end of last year.

For the photographic sheets, the time-scales and zeros of measure are prepared to the end of 1857. The ordinates, expressing the values of western magnetic declination, horizontal force, and vertical force, for numerous instants in each day, are measured, and their values are entered in proper sheets.

The results do not appear to present any point of remarkable interest. The mean westerly declinations of the free magnet has diminished from 1856 to 1857 by a few minutes, but I am not able to state the exact quantity. The vane-spindle has turned, in the direction following the sun, about sixteen times in the year 1857, nearly the same number of revolutions as in former years.

Since the beginning of the present year, Mr. Lucas with five junior computers (formerly employed on the lunar reductions) have been occupied with the reduction of magnetic observations in the photographic series, from the beginning of 1848 to the end of 1856. The first step was, taking each of the photographic curves in succession, to sweep through it by hand a pencil line; under the general instructions that where the period of irregularities was very short, the line was to take a smooth course, representing as nearly as possible the mean values of the ordinates for some distance, without regard to the rapid departures of the actual curve on each side; where the period of irregularities was as long as two or three hours, the general bends of the curves were to be followed; and where the period was intermediate in length, a rule of intermediate character was to be observed. The number of days which it was thought necessary to reject entirely, on account of the extreme irregularity of character, was ninety-two in nine years. The ordinates of the pencil curves are measured by scale for every hour, and their numerical values are entered in proper sheets, adapted to the process of taking the means for every day, and the means corresponding to each of the twenty-four hours through every month. The whole of the hourly readings for declination and horizontal force are entered to the end of 1856, and three-fourths of the entries are examined; about one-third of the sums for means are formed. Nothing is yet done to the vertical force. The times of the moon's upper and lower transit are marked on the time-scales of about one-sixth of the sheets; and preparations are made for taking the measures of the ordinates for lunar hours, and treating them in the same way as for solar hours.

**12. Printing of Magnetical and Meteorological Observations.**—The printing of the Observations of 1857 is not yet begun, but the whole of the manuscript is ready, wanting only some final revisions by the superintendent of the magnetic and meteorological department, and will probably be in the printer's hands at the time of my reading

this report. The small alteration of form introduced in 1856 will be retained in 1857.

Two copies of secondary photographs are prepared to the end of 1856, and of declination and horizontal force, for January of 1857. It is proper to mention that secondaries have been employed (as far as we possessed them) for extraction and tabulation of the numerical values of the ordinates, to which allusion is made in the account of the extensive reduction of magnetic observations now going on.

**13. Chronometers, Communications of Time, and Operations for Longitude.**—The number of chronometers now in the Chronometer Room is 104. A few of these are on trial for the Brazilian government. Some of the chronometers are compared every day, and some only once a week. The standard of reference is a galvanic clock, one of the sympathetic series; of which the motor clock is every morning adjusted by means of its auxiliary pendulum to the best mean time that the Observatory can supply.

In the last winter a new chronometer oven was prepared, in a form somewhat more convenient than that which we had previously used (and which had been copied from the construction adopted in the Liverpool Observatory). For utilizing space, and at the same time preserving all the essentials of chronometer mountings, the simple expedient has been adopted of taking off the lids of the chronometer boxes. We are now able to try about forty chronometers at a time in heat, with mechanical arrangements which I believe are perfectly satisfactory to all parties. Every chronometer which comes into the Royal Observatory, for whatever purpose, is now rated for some weeks in a temperature of about 80°, and sometimes higher. Some curious neglects of adjustments have been revealed to us, which otherwise might only have puzzled us. I anticipate considerable benefit, not only to the service of the Royal Navy, but also to the habits of chronometer-makers, from thus regularly directing our attention to the important thermal adjustment. In concluding this subject, it would be wrong to omit the acknowledgment that the careful attention to the subject of temperature is in no small degree due to the example set by Mr. Hartnup at the Liverpool Observatory. The power of carrying out the system in a satisfactory way has been derived from the introduction of gas to the Observatory.

The valuation of chronometers for purchase by the Government rests (as heretofore) with me. The receipts, repairs, and issues of Government chronometers, with the preparation of the proper reports, abstracts, and digests, applying to those transactions, are also managed in the Observatory.

The external time-signals are given by the same regulated motor clock by which the chronometer clock is kept to accurate time.

In spite of the injury to our London galvanic wires, the currents sent at mean noon every day have had sufficient power to effect the regulation of four clocks of the General Post-office, by means of an apparatus which I explained to the visitors two years ago; and also to exhibit the signals given by those clocks. The appearance here is very curious. Near to 23<sup>h</sup> 26<sup>m</sup>, 23<sup>h</sup> 28<sup>m</sup>, 23<sup>h</sup> 32<sup>m</sup>, and 23<sup>h</sup> 36<sup>m</sup>, four signals are exhibited which we know to come from four certain clocks, and which, by comparison with our clock, show the errors of those four clocks. Of the correction effected at noon we see no trace; but very nearly at 0<sup>h</sup> 26<sup>m</sup>, 0<sup>h</sup> 28<sup>m</sup>, 0<sup>h</sup> 32<sup>m</sup>, 0<sup>h</sup> 36<sup>m</sup>, come four signals, showing the state of the same clocks as corrected. These observations are recorded. Each of the four clocks in question regulates a group of dependent clocks, by local galvanic currents, in a manner nearly similar to that by which our current at noon regulates those four principal clocks, and thus more than thirty clocks are kept very nearly to accurate time. I believe that it is the best instance of mechanical regulation that exists.

The state of the wires, however, has not enabled



us to drop the ball at Deal. The feeble current which arrives there has been used for some months merely as giving a signal, by which an attendant is guided in dropping the ball by hand. The system has thus lost much of its original dignity; but I trust that under the kind attention of C. V. Walker, Esq., F.R.S. (telegraph superintendent and engineer of the South-Eastern Railway), the wires will speedily be restored to their pristine integrity, and that we shall drop the Deal ball by direct current, as formerly.

Operations have been twice undertaken, with partial success, for the determination of the longitude of Edinburgh. The first time was in the month of November. To avoid the defects of our direct line to Lothbury, I took the route of Blackheath, Admiralty, Strand Office, and Lothbury. For five days we had inexplicable failures, currents being visible, but far too weak for use. On the very last day at our disposal I discovered that the failure was in the Blackheath Admiralty line, which was totally unfit for sending a distant signal. The wire was subsequently examined and repaired; and in the Easter vacation of Parliament the experiment was repeated. Although there was still an escape on this part of the circuit, which made it desirable for us to avail ourselves of the kindness of the Electric Telegraph Company in lending some very delicate instruments, still we were able to receive and transmit every signal efficiently. During the week devoted to this experiment the weather was so bad that only one evening could be used. In that evening, however, the same series of twenty-two stars were observed at both stations; and as the American method of touch-record of transits of stars over every wire was used (each touch, at whichever end, completing a circuit, which gave action to local relays at both ends, by which local batteries were made to impress signals on chronographic apparatus at both ends), we obtained very good materials for retardation of current and for difference of longitude. The retard is 0.04 very nearly; and the difference of longitude 12<sup>m</sup> 43<sup>s</sup> 05, subject to personal equations. Our success in this enterprise is entirely due to the hearty aid rendered by the Electric Telegraph Company, not only by the appropriation to our use of one of the long wires to Edinburgh, and by the loan of their instruments, but also by the cordial assistance of their officers, who, without interfering with our operations, gave their personal attention at both stations to render the apparatus efficient.

14. *Personal Establishment.*—The personal establishment is not altered. The First Assistant, Rev. R. Main, takes general superintendence and occasionally observes, especially with extra-meridian instruments; Mr. Dunkin manages the altazimuth; Mr. Breen presides over supernumerary computers, and attends to computations and printing, being little occupied with observations; Mr. Ellis and Mr. Criswick arrange for transits and time communications of all kinds; Mr. Lynn is charged with meridian zenith distances; the mere observations with the various instruments being distributed among all these assistants. They are aided by four supernumeraries. In the magnetic and meteorological department, Mr. Glaisher (Second Assistant of the Observatory) is aided by Mr. Downs and three supernumeraries.

There are also a gate-porter, night-watchman, and labourer, and at least one carpenter in constant employment.

15. *Extraneous Works.*—The lunar reductions which have been some time in hand are now in the following state:—The correction of Burckhardt's error of parallax is completed to the end of 1853 (the latest period to which it is required). The calculations from Plana's theory are completed to the end of 1851. The tabular errors and the individual equations derived from them are grouped and added. Everything is ready for the formation of final equations. In this state they are waiting for my general revision, which pressure

of business has hitherto prevented me from giving, but which I hope to give in the approaching summer.

The distribution of a large part of the impression of Hansen's lunar tables was undertaken by us in the last summer; and that important work is now pretty well disseminated among astronomical observers and computers, academical bodies, and some libraries of reference, in all parts of the world.

16. *General Remarks.*—The only point of interest relating to the affairs of the Observatory, which is not included in the preceding report on details of ordinary business, appears to be the approaching completion of the large equatorial; and the consideration of the direction which it may be thought desirable then to give our labours, and the addition which it may be necessary to make to our personal establishment.

With regard to the direction of our labours, I trust that I shall always be supported by the visitors in my desire to maintain the fundamental and meridional system of the Observatory absolutely intact. This, however, does not impede the extension of our system in any way whatever, provided that such means are arranged for carrying out the extension as will render unnecessary the withdrawal of strength from what are now the engrossing objects of the Observatory. On the character of any such extension I request the instructions of the visitors.

With regard to our personal establishment, I would not, in any case, propose the necessity of an addition until the want of it should have been absolutely felt. But prospectively I am bound to remark that, after the appliance of all possible mechanical contrivances to facilitate its use, the daily service of a large instrument is more laborious than that of a small one, and the subjects of its observation would probably require a greater number of hours of scrutiny than those of a small one, and that I see no probable escape from the conclusion that an additional competent assistant (not an increase in the number of supernumeraries) will ultimately be required for the Observatory. The expression of the visitors' opinion on this point would aid materially to guide me in the first arrangements which the completion of the instrument may require.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich.  
1858, May 27.

G. B. AIRY.

#### THE MANCHESTER EXHIBITION.—THE MICHAEL ANGELO.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

SIR,—The Manchester display was an exposition of England's claims in the domain of art. Many were the pearls, but counterfeit upon counterfeit exalted into masterpieces, to subserve venality, or to flatter rank, and an official catalogue, crammed with the plagiarisms and empty conceits of foreign pretenders, stamping us "By Authority," as bald of wit as of self-respect, have suggested to the Continent an equation not soothing to our insular vanity. Our proudest boast is made our chief reproach; a masterpiece for which a Demetrius might have spared a Rhodes, had been amidst us some thirty years—to remain a stranger; offered to us, pressed upon us, at a mean price, our "right men in the right place," had spurned it from our doors.\* That masterpiece becomes the note dominant of a great art-festival; when, lo! an Athenian from the banks of the *Spree*, vouchsafes to be "the first" to proclaim its origin; and Britain straight adores the oracle. Patriots revel in his triumph (as though 'twere a very JUBILEE for Englishmen to figure as a foil to the foreigner), and exultingly reckon up the "hundreds who will sympathize with the proper pride he expresses in finding so many approved judges

confirming his opinion, that the once so-called Ghirlandaio is a genuine easel picture, by the pencil of Michael Angelo;" while our gay neighbours here find scope for their pleasantry, in seeing us hectoring for our stolidity by one whose pretensions, long since exploded in his own country, are at such a pass in this, that the administration of the Louvre has found it necessary to purge its catalogue of his name. In England only can he now find countenance. There, indeed, he may descend unchallenged on "the deference with which his opinions are received by artists and friends of art," and on "the confidence which many are pleased to place in him;"<sup>†</sup> there issue his fiat that an alien, his creature, be sent with comely emolument and delicate opportunities, to "travel" as the personification of the artistic intelligence of a nation; there inspire economists to predicate that his is at once the "highest" and the cheapest of "recommendations," and in "deference" to his quintessential authority, to expel Englishmen from the category of the "eligible."<sup>‡</sup>

At page 6 of a publication bearing the blushing title-page, 'The Manchester Exhibition: what to observe. A Walk through the Art-Treasures Exhibition under the guidance of Dr. Waagen. A Companion to the Official Catalogue. London, &c. 1857,' may be read:—

"107. Michael Angelo Buonarrotti. *The Virgin, the Child, St. John, and four Angels holding scrolls.*—No artist but Michael Angelo could have attained to the expression of so lofty a purity, so elevated a consciousness of divine maternity, as that displayed in the Virgin in this picture. The angel seen in profile is, too, of extraordinary beauty. All the undraped parts are modelled with the greatest knowledge. By far the rarest picture in the whole exhibition, as only one other easel picture by Michael Angelo is known to exist—that in the Tribune at Florence. Having been the first to attribute publicly this picture, previously assigned to Domenico Ghirlandaio, to Michael Angelo [Waagen, vol. ii., p. 419], it gave me much satisfaction to find this denomination acknowledged by some of the first connoisseurs I met in the exhibition."

The "lofty purity" of this morsel, so largely exemplified in the assertion about the Michael Angelo at Florence, is a dainty bit for the "hundreds who sympathize with the proper pride" of the author. That assertion is untrue. It was levelled at a work which he knew to exist but had never seen, namely, the Michael Angelo in my possession; yet to this same work, the very picture which he so "properly prides" himself upon "having been the first to attribute publicly to Michael Angelo," owes somewhat of its present renown. The parenthetical reference points to a book not in existence till the summer, or may be the autumn, of 1854; the "No. 5" of the following extract, to a list of masterpieces passed by at trifling sums by a "board of taste," careful to moderate taste to the standard of tens of thousands for ambiguous mediocrities, accentuated occasionally by a not ambiguous counterfeit. The claim of priority is met thus:—

"Q. 9,953. . . . No. 5. *The Virgin, Child, and St. John, with Saints*, by MICHAEL ANGELO. This great work, superior to any in the National collection, was offered to the trustees, in 1844, for 500*l.*, at the very time they were in treaty for that wretched Holbein, 'A Medical Gentleman.' It belonged to a lady named Bonar. The two pictures were in the same room at the National Gallery, and at the same time. The daub was secured,—the masterpiece rejected. The MICHAEL ANGELO was subsequently exhibited at the British Institution. It remained on sale during the whole period of Sir C. Eastlake's keepership, and was at last sold, in 1849, for Mrs. Bonar, by Messrs.

\* "Sir Martin Shee (P.R.A. and a trustee of the National Gallery) was decidedly against the purchase of that picture, i.e., the *Michael Angelo*."—Eastlake's *Evid.*, 1853, q. 6,179.

† Waagen's letters, 'Times,' July 13, 1854, and July 16, 1856.

‡ Wilson on Herr Mündler's appointment, *Debate on the National Gallery estimates*, Aug. 1, 1855.



Colnaghi, for 525/., &c." (Morris Moore's Evid. on the Picture-Purchasing, July 22, 1853. Report of Sel. Com. on the National Gallery of 1853, p. 696.)\*

In the same evidence this work is twice again affirmed to be by MICHAEL ANGELO.

It could be shown by testimony irrefragable, that in delivering this evidence, the witness did but repeat a judgment which he had pronounced more elaborately in 1847, on his first introduction to this masterpiece. But a judgment privately expressed was inadequate to the emergency. The claim, one of "public" priority, stretched to the full the claimant's responsibility. To confute it demanded a perfect parallel. But if personal responsibility can add emphasis to the categorical, then was the evidence of 1853 indeed emphatic. It stood as climax to an indictment addressed to the grand inquest of the nation, in the teeth of a discomfited faction, and of a committee eager to fasten upon any indiscretion of the accused, wherewith to soften the defeat of his opponents. It were idle to plead that, granted the spuriousness of the claim and the egotism of its form (for these, who will deny?), it must have been made in ignorance, since, to have run thus headlong on detection, had been fatuity scarcely credible. Asserters of false claims must be held to the consequences. Wisely was it ordained that to lack honesty is to lack wit. Folly is the very root of dishonesty. There is no extenuation. The confidential ally of the chief defendant in the National Gallery inquiry of 1853, himself assailed in the evidence his public boastings of complete information on all matters of art in England in general, and of my connection therewith in particular, and his actual publication after his own fashion of the last, show all but to a demonstration that the author of 'What to Observe' could not but have been cognizant of my evidence on the MICHAEL ANGELO. I submit, moreover, and herein I am backed by one alike eminent for critical acumen and for literary accomplishments, that the fourth sentence of his remarks bears strong internal evidence of direct plagiarism from the first of mine. The homage of Europe to the majesty of the work seduced him into this extravagant claim; the ephemeral nature of his pamphlet and my absence from England blinded him to its detection. Thus do the weak-witted and self-seeking, while labouring to conceal their inaptitude and to overreach others, but toil at the net that is to ensnare themselves. I asserted no priority in 1853. The contemplation of the mighty Florentine forbade self-exaltation. One exception, and I assert no priority now. The spurious claim has thriven for a year. Forbearance may become desertion of right. It was time to pluck the stolen plumage, and so remove an unmerited stigma.

I am, sir, yours obediently,

MORRIS MOORE.

Paris: 54, Rue de Grenelle, St. Germain.  
June, 1858.

#### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

Some scandalous stories respecting the domestic relations of Mr. Charles Dickens have lately been rife in society. We heard them with regret, not only for that gentleman's own sake, but because they afforded a sort of miserable triumph to the men of the broad phylactery, from whose narrow-minded bigotry Mr. Dickens has always honour-

\* The 'Quarterly Review' of July, 1857, contained an anonymous article of obvious parentage, claiming for Sir C. Eastlake a lively appreciation of this work. The keenness of his appreciation of *Michael Angelo* is illustrated in App. No. II. p. 472, and at pp. 678-80 of the Report of the Select Committee of the National Gallery of 1853. In the former it is proved that he exhibited this masterpiece to the trustees on the 3rd of June, 1844, merely as a *Domenico Ghirlandajo*. In the latter, he first speaks of it as "probably painted by Domenico Ghirlandajo," and then, positively, as a *Ghirlandajo*. He, indeed, names M. Angelo, but only to repudiate him as its author.

\* Königlich privilegirte Berlinische Zeitung, Nov. 30, and Dec. 14, 1856.

ably stood aloof. We are, therefore, happy to give all the publicity in our power to the following explicit denial of their truth, which appeared in the number of 'Household Words' of Wednesday last:—

"Three-and-twenty years have passed since I entered on my present relations with the public. They began when I was so young that I find them to have existed for nearly a quarter of a century.

"Through all that time I have tried to be as faithful to the public as they have been to me. It was my duty never to trifle with them or to deceive them, or presume upon their favour, or do anything with it but work hard to justify it. I have always endeavoured to discharge that duty."

"My conspicuous position has often made me the subject of fabulous stories and unaccountable statements. Occasionally such things have chafed me, or even wounded me, but I have always accepted them as the shadows inseparable from the light of my notoriety and success. I have never obtruded any such personal unkindness of mine upon the generous aggregate of my audience."

"For the first time in my life, and I believe for the last, I now deviate from the principle I have so long observed, by presenting myself in my own journal in my own private character, and intreating all my brethren (as they deem that they have reason to think well of me, and to know that I am a man who has ever been unaffectedly true to our common calling) to lend their aid to the dissemination of my present words."

"Some domestic trouble of mine of long standing, on which I will make no further remark than that it claims to be respected as being of a sacredly private nature, has lately been brought to an arrangement which involves no anger or ill-will of any kind, and the whole origin, progress, and surrounding circumstances of which have been, throughout, within the knowledge of my children. It is amicably composed, and its details have now but to be forgotten by those concerned in it."

"By some means, arising out of wickedness, or out of folly, or out of inconceivable wild chance, or out of all three, this trouble has been made the occasion of misrepresentations, most grossly false, most monstrous, and most cruel—involving not only me, but innocent persons dear to my heart, and innocent persons of whom I have no knowledge, if, indeed, they have any existence—and so widely spread that I doubt if one reader in a thousand will peruse these lines by whom some touch of the breath of these slanders will not have passed like an unwholesome air."

"Those who know me and my nature need no assurance under my hand that such calumnies are as irreconcilable with me as they are, in their frantic incoherence, with one another. But there is a great multitude who know me through my writings, and who do not know me otherwise, and I cannot bear that one of them should be left in doubt, or hazard of doubt, through my poorly shrinking from taking the unusual means to which I now resort of circulating the truth."

"I most solemnly declare, then—and this I do, both in my own name and in my wife's—that all the lately whispered rumours touching the trouble at which I have glanced are abominably false, and that whosoever repeats one of them after this denial will lie as wilfully and as foully as it is possible for any false witness to lie before Heaven and earth."

CHARLES DICKENS."

Mr. Dickens is a public man; and in our opinion he has done well and wisely in publicly contradicting these reports, since he is happily able to do so with a clear conscience.

We recollect once hearing a learned serjeant, since deceased, keeping the table on circuit in a roar by a series of ridiculous stories. Some of them not being very credible, a matter-of-fact juror insisted on asking the learned serjeant to reconcile some palpable inconsistencies; when the judge who was present, and who has since shown himself, in print, to be rather fond of apocryphal anecdotes, observed:—"Mr. B—, when you have been a little longer at the bar you will learn that a professed story-teller is not to be cross-examined." Ignorant of this salutary maxim, and of the general latitude in the indulgence of their imagination which has been allowed to wits of all ages, ever since the time of Falstaff, Mr. Bentley has insisted angrily upon bringing Mr. Hayward to book respecting a *mot* which Mr. James Smith is reported by him to have made at Mr. Bentley's expense. The story, we believe, is—but we quote from memory—that Mr. Bentley proposed as the title for the magazine which he was then about to start, 'The Wit's Miscellany.' James Smith objected to this as being too pretentious and promising too much; upon which Mr. Bentley proposed 'Bentley's Miscellany.' "Don't you think that would be going a little too far the other way?" replied Smith. Mr. Bentley is very angry at having his name thus embalmed in a

witticism, like a straw in amber, denies the whole thing, and insinuates that Mr. Hayward's character for veracity does not stand high among the benchers. This, we conceive, is merely equivalent to saying that Mr. Hayward is fond of telling good stories. However, being mindful of the beatitude promised to the peace-makers, we would suggest that both parties may be right. James Smith may have uttered the *mot* in question, but its point may have never penetrated Mr. Bentley's sensorium, and, in this case, would certainly not have been laid up in the store-house of his memory.

The Pusey and Ellerton prize at Oxford for the best essay on a theological subject, has been awarded to Mr. Edwin Hatch, of Pembroke College.

Tidings of the Niger expedition have been received by the African mail steamer *Ethiopia*, on the 31st of March. Dr. Baikie was encamped near Rabba; and Lieutenant Glover and Mr. May were on their way from Lagos to join him there. Dr. Berwick was at Lairdston, with part of the crew of the *Dayspring*. The *Sunbeam* was at the Brass river entrance of the Niger on the 22nd of April, waiting for water to ascend to the confluence. All were in good health, thanks to quinine and Dr. Baikie's other sanitary precautions. The efforts that are now being made to revive and extend the slave trade, both directly by the Spaniards and Americans, and under the mask of negro emigration, by the French, must lead every friend of humanity and civilization to take warmer interest in such expeditions as those of Dr. Baikie, and of Dr. Livingstone, which have for their object, along with scientific exploration, the opening up the vast regions of Africa to the civilizing influences of legitimate commerce.

We regret to say that any chance of the formation of a great national museum of art has now passed away. It will be recollected, that when Lord Derby was last in office, it was proposed to remove the pictures from the present building in Trafalgar Square to one to be erected on the site of the Crystal Palace of 1851, and to place under the same roof the collection of art antiquities now in the British Museum. With a view to some such arrangement as this, Government entered into partnership, as it were, with the Commissioners of the Exhibition, on the understanding that the surplus funds in their hands should be applied to the purposes of the new National Gallery. On Thursday night the Chancellor of the Exchequer asked leave to bring in a bill for the dissolution of the partnership between Government and the Commissioners on the repayment, by the latter, of the moneys lent to them in aid of their funds. Mr. Disraeli promises explanation on the introduction of the bill.

The members of the Whittington Club intend to hold a meeting on Wednesday next, for the purpose of making arrangements for the inauguration of the handsome new club-house, which they have erected in Arundel Street. We wish them success.

We have no sympathy with any attempt to abridge the liberty of the press; yet we rejoiced at the success of Lord Campbell's *razzia* on the abominations of Holywell Street. For the same reason we cannot regret the issue of M. Proudhon's trial. He has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment, and a fine of 4,000*fr.* for having written two books, entitled 'On the Revolution and the Church,' and 'A Petition to the Senate.' They are farragoes of the most insane blasphemy and obscenity.

The English Government has lately purchased the site of Napoleon's tomb and the estate of Longwood, in St. Helena, and has granted them to the Emperor of the French, and his heirs in perpetuity. The ordinance recording the grant appeared in the 'St. Helena Herald' of the 4th of March.

On the 3rd instant, Lieut.-Colonel A. S. Waugh, Dr. Livingstone, Dr. T. G. Balfour, Sir Frederick Currie, Chairman of the East-India Company,

Dr. H. D. Rogers, D. Forbes, Captain Boxer, R.A., Dr. W. S. Savory, J. Lubbock, W. W. Smyth, Dr. T. Williams, and A. B. Garrod, were elected Fellows of the Royal Society.

We are happy to hear that there is every likelihood that the late Hugh Miller's geological collection will not be dispersed. Miss Burdett Coutts has contributed 100*l.* towards the fund for purchasing it.

'The Australian and New Zealand Gazette' states that a newspaper in the Maori language has been started at Wellington. It is called 'The Messenger of Port Nicholson.' We wish our young contemporary at the antipodes every success, and hope he may be a means of promoting civilization among the native population.

On Saturday, the 5th inst., the distribution of prizes and certificates of honour awarded to the students in connection with St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, took place in the theatre of the hospital, under the presidency of Sir James Stephen, K.C.B., Professor of Modern History in the University of Cambridge. Sir James Stephen delivered an able and eloquent address, congratulating the friends of the institution on the prosperity of the hospital, and the medical school attached to it, and offering to the pupils judicious and appropriate advice connected with their professional and general studies. A numerous company attended on the occasion, who joined in applauding the venerable and learned professor.

The death of Mr. Edward Moxon, who has long been in delicate health, is an event that will be much regretted by a large circle of literary friends, as well as by his professional brethren. With the exception of the works of a few great writers, Mr. Moxon has been the publisher of most of the poetry of mark during the present generation, and he won the respect of all with whom he had dealings by his judgment, liberality and good feeling.

An interesting ceremony took place on Wednesday at the Woking Necropolis Cemetery,—the inauguration of a burial-ground for members of the Dramatic, Equestrian, and Musical Sick Fund Association. A piece of land, about an acre in extent, has been secured in perpetuity, and set apart as the "God's Acre" of the poor players. Not that it is intended only for the humbler members of the profession, a common resting-place being provided for all grades, while by the liberal arrangements of the association provision is made not only for the illness or misfortune of those who are less prosperous in the world, but also for relieving their surviving friends of heavy burial expenses. A large number of actors, with their families and friends, headed by Mr. Benjamin Webster, one of the trustees of the association, repaired to Woking on Wednesday, by a special train, when a service suitable to the occasion was performed in one of the chapels of the cemetery. The sermon was preached by the Rev. H. R. Roberts, one of the chaplains, after which the company "beat the bounds" of the burial-ground, and the deed of conveyance was read by the secretary of the cemetery company, and handed over to the committee of the association. Mr. Webster then delivered a brief and appropriate address, remarking that "respect for the dead was a characteristic of humanity, with which sacred feeling the dramatic profession, as a class, was deeply imbued. Shakespeare had often given incidental utterance to this sentiment, and in the memorable lines inscribed on his own monumental tablet expressed his horror of any desecration of his last resting-place:—

"Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear  
To dig the dust inclosed here;  
Blest be the man who spares these stones,  
And curst be he who stirs my bones."

There is no risk of such desecration in the cemetery of Woking, the vast extent of which, and its distance from London, although within easy access by railway, will ever secure this "city of the dead" from disturbance. The expansion of the

metropolis must ere long cause other cemeteries less remote and of smaller size to be closed, as the City church-yards have been, for the sake of the public health; but at Woking, with its four hundred acres of ground, there is room for the decent burial of many generations. The grounds are beautifully ornamented, and the arrangements of the company admirable. The proceedings of the day were managed to the entire satisfaction of the numerous visitors, by Mr. Anson, the secretary of the association. Several large donations to the Dramatic, Equestrian, and Musical Sick Fund have been received from generous friends, but the association deserves greater support from the leading members of the profession, who in their prosperity ought to sympathize more with the great body of industrious and humble labourers attached to the theatres and theatrical establishments. The plot of ground belonging to the association is close to the entrance of the cemetery from the railroad. It already contains three or four graves with neat and appropriate monuments.

The Historical Society of Frankfort-on-the-Maine has just become possessed of an interesting antiquarian relic, which was discovered about eight hundred paces from the river Maine, near Flörsheim, a small station and town on the railroad between Frankfort and Wiesbaden. At this spot, a short time ago, a burial-place was found containing a skeleton, it is supposed, of a young man. Fifteen metal circlets were picked up close to it, one of which, of bronze, had evidently been made for the neck. The body had been laid with the face to the north. There were some flat stone slabs placed over it, and upon them unheaven stones were heaped, in the form of a pyramid. The lower jaw was extremely well preserved, as were also the teeth, the enamel of which was quite perfect. The neighbourhood of the Maine is supposed to be rich in hidden antiquarian treasures, which lie concealed under the deposits of mud and slime with which the frequent inundations of the river have covered the surrounding country.

From Augsburg, the death of Moritz Rugendas, the celebrated traveller and painter, is announced. He had been long suffering, and was at last released, after repeated fits of apoplexy.—From the same source we learn that the justly celebrated Jewish painter, Mella Ismaell, has committed suicide at Modena by shooting himself with a pistol. He was only thirty-two years of age, and, notwithstanding the manner of his death, his body was followed to the grave by a large concourse of fellow-artists and admirers among the townsfolk. The 'Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung' adds, that the mania for suicide has never hitherto reached the pitch it has now done, and that men of all ages and stations of life have recourse to it, to rid them from their real or imaginary troubles.

From an official document lately published at St. Petersburg, it appears that whilst the number of readers in the Imperial Library of that city was only 7,720, it rose to 17,897 in 1853, to 27,866 in 1856, and to 31,151 in 1857. The progress is really remarkable. The collections of the library at the end of the year consisted of 802,717 printed works, 28,536 manuscripts and autographs, and 89,915 engravings. In 1850 scarcely any catalogue of the printed books existed; in 1857, out of 802,717 works, only about 125,000 remained to be catalogued.

M. Biot, the venerable French *savant*, is about to publish at Paris, in three volumes, a selection of his literary and scientific labours under the title 'Melanges Scientifiques et Littéraires.'

A French gentleman named Bréant, who died some years back, bequeathed a sum of £4,000 to the Academy of Sciences of Paris to be given to the author of a sovereign cure for the cholera. In 1854, the Academy reported that though numerous persons had competed for the prize, none of them had obtained it; and in its last sitting it again reported that though, since 1854,

as many as 53 memoirs or communications on the subject had been sent in, not one was deserving of the promised reward. The field consequently is still open to competitors.

M. de Pène, the victim of the military insolence of the French janissaries, is reported to be slightly better, and hopes are entertained of his recovery.

A manuscript copy of the 'Divina Commedia,' supposed to be in the handwriting of Petrarch, has lately been discovered at Florence. The Grand Duke and the Hereditary Prince have commissioned the well-known *savant*, Signor Amici, to visit such libraries as possess examples of Petrarch's handwriting, and to take photographic pictures of these documents, in order to compare them with the manuscript which has now come to light, after being for so many years buried in obscurity.

## FINE ARTS.

### THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.—EXHIBITION OF THE OLD MASTERS.

THIS exhibition, always so popular amongst the real lovers of art, will be found this year to possess some unusual features of interest. The greatest novelties are unquestionably the selections from Mr. Barker's collection—the spoils of Venetian and Tuscan cabinets, and now, for the first time, exhibited in England. At the same time, the most important picture is the great copy of L. da Vinci's celebrated *Last Supper* (48), from the Academy collection. To the *habitués* of the Academy this picture will be familiar, hanging, as it did, above the rostrum of the professor in the lecture-room. Since we last saw it, it has undergone a judicious cleansing. This great work is well known to be a copy of the famous picture in the refectory near Milan, made by Marco d'Oggione, one of Leonardo's best pupils. Owing to the decayed state of the original, this is the best evidence extant of what the original has been, and is therefore deservedly prized by its owners as the greatest gem of their collection, superior even to the fragment of M. Angelo's sculpture which adorns their council-room. It is sufficient to say with respect to this interesting work, that those whose curiosity has been roused by the endless engravings of Leonardo's masterpiece, will find it more than satisfied by this, though a copy only of the original. It is a noble tribute on the part of an able and admiring pupil, and exhibits, what it is vain to look for elsewhere, that peculiar richness, and, at the same time, clearness of colouring, which restores what was wanting before to our conceptions of the master's work, viz., how those immortal lines were filled up with varieties of complexion and costume. The mournful expression of the Divine Saviour cannot be mistaken,—"Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me." With the tender and refined sorrow of St. John at this announcement is contrasted the eager denial of the fierce Iscariot, clutching the bag in his right hand. The expression of the disciple behind, who beckons with his finger, "Master, is it I?" is particularly vivid; but it is unnecessary to dwell upon what is familiar to all. It will be remarked how much colouring relieves the scene of the flat, bas-relief effect which is given by the engravings, and how much natural beauty there is in the light behind, which relieves the central figures. The art of composition, on a large scale, which is so little practised because so little called for in this country, receives unusual illustration from this painting. Along with this great work of D'Oggione there are two other drawings, said to be, but not without question, designs by L. da Vinci for the larger work; they are a *Head of the Saviour* (10), and a *Head of one of the Apostles* (9), the last but one on the spectator's right.

Second only to the above in importance is the *Vierge aux Rochers* (7), also by L. da Vinci, from



the Suffolk collection. A smaller and inferior copy of this great work exists in the Louvre, and we believe there are other repetitions. This picture is dark, and it is impossible not to suppose it sunk in tone; but the majestic forms, and the sense of beauty perceptible in the angel's head, are something quite unusual in the majority of the works attributed to Leonardo. In these respects it justifies its reputed authorship, whilst the famed arrangement of the rocks, which gives an unmistakable peculiarity to the picture, is familiar from the engravings. Another Leonardo da Vinci, the *Virgin and Child* (5), has all the traditional and highly-graceful mannerisms of the school, but, though probably genuine, is below the *Virge aux Rochers* in power. A third, the *Infant Saviour and St. John*, (8), conveys still less of the style of the master.

A prominent position is given to a beautifully-coloured Murillo, the *Infant Saviour and Angels* (1), belonging to Earl Howe, with its Greek motto, "Which things the angels desire to look into;" and two unmistakable heads, by the same artist, taken from models which he has often repeated, are contributed by the Duke of Sutherland, *St. Justa* (71) and *St. Rufina* (78). But decidedly the most curious specimen of this master is Mr. Gladstone's picture of a *Saint with Two Monks walking on the Water* (99). The matter-of-fact way in which this miracle is told, the large size of the figures, and comparative unimportance of landscape and sky, are unusual to Murillo, but the treatment and colouring of the picture are unmistakably Spanish.

We turn, however, to Mr. Barker's pictures. They are mostly of the old Florentine and Ferrarese schools; but one Giorgione, *Portraits* (34), said to be of himself, his mistress, and pupil, claims the first attention, as having attracted the admiration of Byron's somewhat wayward muse:—

" 'Tis but a portrait of his son, and wife,  
And self; but such a woman! love in life!"

This seems to be extravagant praise to those who remember the same face in finer pictures of Giorgione, and, if we do not mistake, of Titian; but still there is enough of beauty and mastery in the picture to account for, if not to justify, the poet's enthusiasm. It is rich, deep, and glowing with the full, sensuous Italian beauty, and though a mere study of form and colour, without much expression of any kind, could only have been painted by one of two men dead or living, Giorgione or Titian. A picture (19) of L'Ortolano, or Giambattista Benvenuto, the Ferrarese artist, who was born in 1490 and died in 1525, is one of the other remarkable features of Mr. Barker's series. The figures are life-size: St. Sebastian in the middle transfixed with arrows, SS. Demetrius and Rocco on the sides. The appearance of this work must surely raise the reputation of this hitherto almost unknown artist, in this country. The transition of art from the dry manner of antiquity to a freer study of nature in its more graceful and flowing forms was never more strongly marked. A sense of effort and study is susceptible throughout, both in drawing and colour. The works by Carlo Crevelli are five in number: of which the most important is the *Portrait of the Beato Ferretti* (26), kneeling in adoration of the Virgin and Child, who appear in the *vesica*, which is studded round with angels' heads. Below is a landscape with a temple, a winding road and figures, a forest, and a ravine down which a monk is descending, his head being just visible above the bushes. The serious treatment of the whole more than redeems its quaintness and imperfection. In the other works, which are chiefly figures of saints, a hard metallic touch is the characteristic, as if the robes were moulded in bronze. The *Virgin and Child with St. John* (29), is a beautiful and characteristic specimen of Sandro Botticelli, and may be compared with the two in the National Gallery, which it greatly resembles. The Lorenzo di Credi, on the other hand, *Virgin and Child and St. John* (20), is not so fine as that from the Lombardo-

Baldi collection, now in the National Gallery, but has all the characteristic fineness of touch and marvellous finish of the master. The portrait of *Isotta da Rimini* (17), by Pietro della Francesca, is particularly interesting, as it may be compared with the portrait, said to be of the same lady, the wife of Sigismund Malatesta, by the same artist, recently purchased for the nation. Of the two the National Gallery picture is certainly the most brilliant in execution; but Mr. Barker's picture is also in beautiful condition. The features, however, of the two faces, both in profile, have marked differences. In the former the lady's nose is unmistakably arched, in the latter it is as decidedly *retroussée*—how is this conflict of testimony to be reconciled? A picture by Fra Filippo Lippi (21), is stated to contain authenticated portraits of Lorenzo and Cosmo de Medici, and of Savonarola, in excellent company, as they are admitted "to the equal sky" with SS. John, Laurence, and Francis. The painter seems to have paid to the magnates of Florence the same flattery as Virgil did to Augustus when he concluded his dedication with—

"Ingredere, ac votis jam nunc aduesce vocari."

Savonarola at least would have given him but small thanks for such adulation. There is also a picture by Dosso Dossi, the Ferrarese, who lived from 1490 to 1560,—two life-size figures of *St. Catharine and St. Lucia* (15), of great beauty. All the last above-mentioned are Mr. Barker's. The Earl of Warwick contributes a *Portrait of a Man* (45), by the same artist, apparently of more advanced style, and possessing more characteristics of the Ferrarese school.

The Rembrandts in this collection are perhaps finer than usual. The portrait of the *Goldsmith of Antwerp* (100), it would be difficult to match in its combination of opposite qualities rarely seen in conjunction, by any other of the master. That of the old lady, *Rembrandt's Mother* (102), is but little inferior. It is really a tremendous portrait: we would recommend its study, in all humility, to the Desanges, the Buckners, the Gushes, and the Heaphys of our own day. How far the same great genius could sink in his rendering of supernatural purity and intelligence, may be observed in the features of the bottle-nosed angel in the scene from the life of *Tobias* (95).

There are a few portraits by Titian and Tintoretto, and by the former a beautiful sketch in half tints of colour which Sir Joshua Reynolds would have loved,—*Venus, Cupid, and Psyche* (40), belonging to Lord Wemyss. Amongst the other Italians, a portrait of *Cardinal Antonio Barberino* (41), by C. Maratti, is distinguished; an Agostino Carracci (46), belonging to the Duke of Northumberland, where Tancred baptizes Clorinda, preparatory, as it would seem, to going through another sort of ritual with that fair and budding pagan convert.

Amongst the instances of the Dutch school the most conspicuous are the Cuyps, which are particularly fine, contributed by Mr. Wynn Ellis and Lord Howe; some hunting scenes by Snyders, a remarkable Teniers, the subject of which is a *Cow-shed* (88), but in which the figures and cattle are in strong light, admitted by the door, against a dark background; the rest are much of the usual character.

A small *Head of a Priest* (1257), by Van Eyck, which has been engraved by Hollar, in the possession of Mr. Howard, of Greystoke, is among the curiosities, just below a Holbein (124); and a portrait by Isaac Oliver, (123), on copper. Two beautiful architectural paintings by Pannini also claim attention, particularly the famous *Interior of the Pantheon* (107), a splendid specimen of drawing and shadow.

By Sir Joshua there are two portraits of *Nelly O'Brien* (128 and 131), the former by far the best of the two; a finely-studied head of *Maria, Duchess of Gloucester* (132); a portrait of *Admiral Keppel* (141), and others. In landscapes, a Wilson,—*Evening* (137), an Old Crome, *River View near*

*Norwich* (154), and a Turner, *Evening* (167), an arrangement which he often repeated with variations. Her Majesty also has sent two state pictures of *King George III.* and the *Royal Family* (145 and 155), by Zoffany.

On the whole, this year's collection may be considered above the average in importance and interest.

Mr. Behnes is engaged on a statue to commemorate the services of Sir Henry Havelock. It is to be placed in Trafalgar Square.

Leasing, the painter, has arrived in Karlsruhe to take up his permanent abode there. In a few days all his pictures, &c., are to be removed, so that he has now taken his final leave of Düsseldorf, and will begin his career in Karlsruhe as director of the gallery and instructor.

An Art Union, under the patronage of the government, has at length been instituted in Warsaw. The townspeople have been trying for it for many years. Almost all the influential people of the country are members. The subscription is divided into two classes, the first amounting to ten silver roubles, or about 1*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, a year; the second to six silver roubles, or 1*l.* 5*s.* The subscription-money is expended in purchasing pictures, which, at the end of the year, are distributed by lottery among the subscribers.

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

VERDI's opera of *Luisa Miller* was brought out for the first time at Her Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday evening. Although new to this country, it is one of Verdi's earlier works, having been produced at the San Carlo, at Naples, eight or nine years ago. Had it not been for the extraordinary success of some of Verdi's other operas, we suspect that *Luisa Miller* would have been almost forgotten by this time, or at least that it would have done little for his fame as a composer. There is a good deal of light, flowing music, and some pretty concerted pieces; but there is little of the distinct and pleasing melody which makes Verdi's operas, with all their faults, widely popular. Although some of the airs are artistic, and afford abundant scope for display in vocalization, we doubt whether any of them will become favourites, either in the street or the drawing-room. The whole composition leaves a vague impression without any of the separate melodies lingering on the memory, as in *Ernani*, *Rigoletto*, the *Trocatore*, and even the *Traviata*. The story is a lugubrious one, founded on Schiller's tale of *Kabal und Liebe*. *Luisa* (Piccolomini), daughter of an old soldier, is beloved by *Rodolfo* (Giuglini), a count's son disguised as a peasant. Her father, *Miller* (Benevenuto), is opposed to the attachment, and is confirmed in his hostility by the influence of *Wurm* (Castelli), the count's friend, who is himself in love with *Luisa*. After much scheming and intriguing, *Rodolfo* is entangled with the *Duchess Federica* (Alboni), with whom his father, the *Count Walter* (Violetti), had long planned a match. By the machinations of the *Count* and *Walter*, *Luisa* is made to believe in the faithlessness of *Rodolfo*, and at the instigation of her father, she writes a letter declaring she had never really loved him. *Rodolfo*, in desperation, consents to marry the *Duchess*, and afterwards resolves to kill both *Luisa* and himself. All this takes place accordingly, with the additional horror of the assassination of *Wurm*. The closing scene is a revoltingly tragic piece of business, the lovers dying slowly by poison in the presence of the horror-stricken parents, and the curtain falling just as *Wurm* is stabbed to the heart by *Rodolfo*. With such a theme, it may be well understood that Verdi's music is more than usually spasmodic and peculiar. One of the best pieces is the opening chorus, the melody of which is continued in the first solo, which introduces Piccolomini, "Lo vidi, e'l primo palpito," into

which the fascinating little *artiste* throws much expression, as well as her second air, "T'amo d'amor." The part represented by Alboni is not a gracious one, nor is there much music worthy of her art; but in two or three passages, especially in the duet with Giuglini, "Dall' aule raggianti." Giuglini was loudly encored in the pretty air, "Quando le sere al placido," which the Italians think the gem of the opera, if we may judge by its being a familiar melody on their barrel organs. There is far more music, however, in the airs assigned to Miller, to which Beneventano did justice. He also won considerable applause in the two airs, "Sacra la scietà," and "Ah! fu giusto." The other parts were adequately sustained, and the orchestral and choral performances were more careful and correct than has been the case with some other operas more worthy of high musical efforts. *Luisa Miller* was repeated on Thursday evening, for the benefit of Mdlle. Piccolomini. The ballets of *La Reine des Songes*, with Mdlle. Marie Taglioni, and *Calesto*, with Mdlle. Pocchini, are elaborately got up, and skilfully executed by the principal performers; but neither public taste nor artistic eminence as they were in former brilliant days of the ballet at Her Majesty's Theatre.

Signor Naudin, the new tenor at Drury Lane, has gained great applause as the *Edgardo*, in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Signor Badiali being *Aston*, Madame Donitelli the *Lucia*. Having now heard Signor Naudin in several operas, we are confirmed in the high opinion expressed at his first performance as *Il Duca in Rigoletto*. Far inferior in sweetness of tone to Mario, and to Tamberlik in power, his artistic skill and intelligent expression as a vocalist give him a high place among the tenor singers of the day.—We perceive, with some surprise, that Mesdames Persiani and Viardot Garcia are announced to appear at Drury Lane.

Rossini's *Barbiere di Siviglia* was performed on Saturday evening at the Royal Italian Opera, when the Queen made her first visit to the new house in Covent Garden. The cast was the same as in former seasons, with the substitution of Zelger for Lablache as *Bartolo*;—Bosio as *Rosina*; Mario, the *Count Almaviva*; Ronconi, the *Barbiere*; and Tagliafico, *Don Basilio*. Mr. Costa's magnificent band did justice to the ever popular and pleasing music of Rossini; and the opera was produced with suitable scenic and decorative display. *The Barbiere* was repeated on Tuesday, and *Lucrezia Borgia* on Thursday.

Changes are rare in the playbills of the Olympic, and the announcement of a new two-act comedy by Mr. Tom Taylor, with the arresting title of *Going to the Bad*, was quite an event in the season. It was produced on Saturday night, on the occasion of the benefit of Mr. Robson, for whose impersonation of the principal character the piece seems to have been hurriedly written. It would be tedious to tell the details of the story, which has little point or novelty, and rests mainly for success on a series of amusing situations and on the personal efforts of the actors. *Peter Potts* (Mr. Robson), a rich, good-natured "pigeon," instigated by the jeers and example of his old school-fellow and friend, *Captain Hardingham* (Mr. G. Vining), resolves to become a "fast" man, and meets with a multitude of mishaps on his way to "the bad." All mankind, as the *Captain* tells him, are divided into skittles and skittle-balls; and as he has been knocked about long enough, he determines to have a turn at active instead of passive existence. The troubles into which he falls, rather rudely in the means, but happily in the end, bring him back to his senses. He becomes a happy domestic Benedick with the gentle *Lacy Johnson* (Miss Wyndham), while the *Captain* pairs off with the brilliant *Miss Dashwood*, who had for a time coquetted with *Peter*. The other principal characters are *General Dashwood* (Mr. F. Vining), a peppery soldier, who tries to bully his daughter into marrying the wealthy *Peter*; *Major Steel*

(Mr. Addison), an Indian soldier of the old school, who thinks military honour, as tested by duelling, the supreme duty of man; and *Mr. Bevis Marks* (Mr. G. Cooke), the uncle and legal adviser of *Mr. Peter Potts*. The steps by which *Peter* is gradually metamorphosed into a *roué*, with habits of drinking, gambling, and other accomplishments, are very amusingly represented; the process culminating in his causing a "scene" at a fancy ball, quarrelling with the old *General*, and insulting his friend the *Captain* so grossly that a duel is inevitable. The arrangements are all made *con amore* by *Major Steel*, but the watchful care of *Lacy*, who is at the ball disguised as a waitress, and the interference of *Mr. Bevis Marks*, prevent the hostile meeting. There are clever pieces of drollery in some of the scenes,—as where *Captain Hardingham* deceives the bailiff by assuming the disguise of a venerable Scotch dowager, *Lady McCorquodale*, and gets the *General* marched off to the sponging-house as his substitute, advantage being taken of his absence to carry off his daughter, *Miss Dashwood* (Miss Herbert). The acting is capital throughout, the minor parts being also well filled, especially *Smythers* (Mr. Horace Wigan), a fashionable *perruquier*, who resents the pronunciation of his name with *i* instead of *y*. The old Indian *Major*, with his cool manner and fire-eating temper, is made a most characteristic part by Mr. Addison. The plot is old and commonplace, and there are monstrous improbabilities in the details. The scene is described as "London in the present time," but the caricature of actual life and manners is too gross even for the stage. Old Indians are not now in the habit of getting up duels on Wimbledon Common; an officer in the Guards is not accustomed to speak of his friends as this or that "party;" the meekest and most generous civilian is not so soft as to write a check for 2,000*l.* at the off-hand request of a rattling companion; and the whole fancy-ball scene has been drawn from the Holborn Casino, not from a party in Belgrave Square. We can hardly believe that Mr. Tom Taylor has done more than touch up a rough outline, prepared by some inferior playwright. The few smart points that raise a laugh here and there, may be from Mr. Taylor's pen; but we suspect that in this instance the common Parisian custom has been followed, of borrowing the name of a successful dramatist to palm off the production of a cheaper and clumsier literary workman. Mr. Tom Taylor would not have gained his name as a dramatic writer by such pieces as *Going to the Bad*.

During the rebuilding of the Adelphi, Mr. Webster and his company have migrated to the Surrey Theatre, where *The Green Bushes*, *Our French Lady's Maid*, and other popular Adelphi pieces are nightly attracting large transpontine audiences. In *The Green Bushes* there is the old cast, except that Mr. Charles Selby takes the part of *Master Grinnidge*, in consequence of the continued indisposition of Mr. Wright.

Mr. Phelps has been appearing at the Standard Theatre this week in *The Stranger*, with Miss Atkinson as *Mrs. Haller*.—At the Princess's, *King Lear* was played for the last time on Thursday, and the theatre was closed last night to the public, in consequence of a night rehearsal of *The Merchant of Venice*, which is to be produced this evening: Mr. Kean, *Shylock*, and Mrs. Kean, *Portia*.—The burlesque of *The Bride of Abydos* has proved a most successful piece at the Strand Theatre, and is certainly one of the cleverest and most amusing productions of the class.—Miss Sedgwick has been performing through the week as *Hester*, in Mr. Tom Taylor's play *An Unequal Match*.

For the benefit of the Asylum for Female Orphans, in the Westminster Road, a concert was given at St. James's Hall on Saturday, at which Madame Clara Novello, Miss Kemble, Miss Arbella Goddard, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Santley, Mr. Brownsmith, and other distinguished vocal

and instrumental performers, assisted. A number of part songs by the Vocal Association, agreeably varied the entertainment. One of the prettiest pieces in the *répertoire* of the Association, is Neidhardt's arrangement of the old air "The Bluebells of Scotland," which was re-demanded, as was also the duet, "Questa ripetimi," finely sung by Madame Novello and Mr. Sims Reeves.

There have been several other concerts during the week, including a benefit night for Miss Leffler, daughter of the late Mr. Leffler. Mr. Sims Reeves, Miss Goddard, Mr. Perren, and other *artistes*, gave their services for the occasion; and the performances of the Hanover Glee Union occupied a large space in the lengthened programme. Miss Leffler sang with much spirit, "Eastward! Ho!" which was expressly composed for her by Mr. Samuel Lover.—Last Saturday a benefit concert, for Miss Chatterton, the harpist, took place in Willis's Rooms, in which the young *beneficiaire* sustained well the reputation of the name she bears.

Herr Joachim and Herr Rubenstein at the fifth concert of the Vocal Association, on Wednesday evening, at St. James's Hall, gave a wonderful display of their executive skill on their respective instruments. Schubert's *Rondo Brillant* was the piece in which the two players performed together, Herr Joachim afterwards giving Tartini's solo, *La Sonje du Diable*, and Herr Rubenstein two of his pianoforte compositions. Madame Rudersdorf, Miss Dolby, and other eminent vocalists were among the solo performers, and a varied selection of compositions, new and old, brought out the choral talent and art of the members of the Vocal Association under the efficient direction of Mr. Benedict. Kücken's *Swabian national air*, "The Northmen's Song of Freedom," and other *morceaux*, not hackneyed by too frequent repetition at concerts, were acceptable parts of the programme. Spohr's song, "The Bird and the Maiden," was given by Miss Messent, with the clarinet accompaniment of M. Lazarus.

#### LEARNED SOCIETIES.

STATISTICAL. — May 18th. — James Heywood, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair. Thomas Muir, Esq., and William Tite, Esq., M.P., were elected Fellows. Mr. Hendriks read a paper "On the Statistics of Indian Revenue and Taxation." The subjects of discussion were arranged under four heads:—1. The present condition of the Indian revenue; the pressure of taxation, and the territorial area and extent of population from which it is raised. 2. The productive, financial, and industrial condition of India, and the degree in which it is susceptible of improvement through the promotion of agriculture and public works; better means of irrigation, and transit by canals and railways; and an amended system of land settlement. 3. The financial conditions that regulate Indian, compared with British, finance. 4. The facts and statistics bearing on the past history and progress of the revenue and taxation of British India from 1792-3 to 1855-6. The total gross revenue of British India in 1855-6 was 30,817,000*l.*; but of this, 17,110,000*l.* was derived from the land-tax, and 5,196,000*l.* from the opium duty. Mr. Hendriks maintained that the land-tax had ceased to be a tax in the ordinary sense of the word, and ought to be considered a fair rent of the soil paid to the government as the sovereign landlord. The opium-tax also is wholly borne by the Chinese consumers of that article. If, besides these, we omit the post-office, mint, and miscellaneous revenues, as being mostly payments made for special services, the total actual taxation borne by the 132 millions of inhabitants of British India is about 6,709,000*l.*, which shows that the average taxation per head in India is one shilling. The improvements lately effected in the canals of the North-West Provinces have yielded a net revenue of from 24 to 36 per cent. on the capital invested,



besides which, they have been of vast advantage in many ways to the inhabitants of the neighbouring country. Yet it must be acknowledged, that the extension of these works has not been either so great or so continuous as might be desired. A public works loan in India, judiciously administered, would, no doubt, meet with support from native capitalists. Mr. Hendriks noticed the fact that the Indian territorial and home debt had been largely increasing in recent years before the mutiny. At present, the total amount of the debts of the Company is 76 millions, and the annual charge for interest is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  millions. The increase on the nominal capital of the debt in twenty-four years has been 60 per cent., while that on the annual charge for interest has only been 42 per cent. With regard to the redemption of the land-tax, Mr. Hendriks considers that such a step should only be taken in those parts of the Bengal Presidency where the permanent settlement is an existing institution of the country. The method for effecting this redemption would be a cancellation of land-tax in exchange for an equivalent amount of capital in the Indian public debt, and should be merely permissive. Direct taxation appears to be too much neglected in India, and the better off a man is the more does he consume of the untaxed commodities of the country, and the less does he contribute, in proportion to his income, to his share of the public expenses.

**SOCIETY OF ARTS.**—May 26th.—Henry Thomas Hope, Esq., in the chair. The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Society:—Messrs. R. W. Binns, H. Branthwaite, W. Brown, J. J. De Mora, J. Snowball, John Stickney, jun., W. Wilson, H. White, and Nicholas Wood. The paper read was "On the Influence exercised on Ceramic Manufactures by the late Mr. Herbert Minton." By Mr. M. Digby Wyatt. The author began by giving an outline of the rise and progress of ceramic manufactures in England up to the time of the establishment, in 1758, of the firm of which Mr. Minton's father was the founder. Mr. Herbert Minton's industrial career might be looked upon as extending over some fifty years of the present century—a period hitherto without a rival in the great history of civilization. It appeared that about fifty years ago Mr. Thomas Minton's establishment at Stoke gave employment to about fifty hands, and that at the date of his son's death upwards of 1,500 were in active occupation. It had been estimated that the value of our exports of ceramic manufactures, which amounted to 573,000*l.* in 1840, had now reached 2,500,000*l.*, having more than quadrupled in the interim. To that rapid development Mr. Minton's activity had largely contributed. The author then proceeded to examine, in some detail, the various branches in which Mr. Minton had been particularly successful. These were earthenware and ordinary soft porcelain, parian, encaustic tiles, azulejos or coloured enamel tiles, mosaics, Della Robbia ware, majolica, and Palissy wares. Mr. Wyatt said, that in ascribing so large a measure of the progress which our ceramic manufactures had made within the last twenty years to Mr. Minton's activity, he wished carefully to guard against being supposed to ignore or underrate the contemporaneous labours of others. It had been, indeed, mainly owing to the generous competition which subsisted between his firm and the establishment presided over by Mr. Alderman Copeland, that Mr. Minton's energy and resources had been never allowed to flag. The author also mentioned the great assistance that had been afforded to Mr. Minton's efforts by Mr. Blashfield and others of his fellow-workers in the same field, and concluded by paying a warm tribute of admiration to Mr. Minton's private character, which secured him the affectionate regard of numerous friends, and the esteem of all classes of society. A discussion ensued, in which Messrs. J. G. Craze, Hyde Clarke, George Wallis, Professor Tennant, Mr.

Daniell, Mr. Blashfield, and the Chairman took part.

**MICROSCOPICAL.**—May 19th.—George Jackson, Esq., in the chair. Dr. Wallich, W. T. Rickard, Esq., Rev. R. S. Bower, and Dr. F. Bossy, were elected Members. Mr. Roper read a paper on the "Genus *Biddulphia*, and its Affinities."

**ANTIQUARIES.**—May 20th.—Joseph Hunter, Esq., V.P., in the chair. The Right Hon. T. H. Sotheron-Escourt, M.P., was elected a Fellow. The Rev. Thomas Hugo exhibited an ancient bone skate, found recently near Finsbury. Examples of these skates are not uncommon; they are supposed to be of the same kind as those used by the youth of London, described by Fitz-Stephen. The Director read the conclusion of Lord Coningsby's 'History of Political Parties in the Reign of Queen Anne.' (Communicated by Sir Henry Ellis, from the Lansdowne MS. in the British Museum.)

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**—May 26th.—T. J. Pettigrew, F.R.S., F.S.A., Vice-President, in the chair. Cord Squarey, Esq., Mayor of Salisbury, was elected an Associate. Mr. Clarke, of Easton, sent a fine gold ring of the fifteenth century, having round it "IHESVS + NABARENTS + REX + IVDIORVM." It was probably used as an amulet. Mr. Wills exhibited a merchant's seal of brass of the close of the fifteenth century, found in the Thames, near London Bridge. The legend reads "s + TOMRI + PORT + LOND." Mr. Dendon, of Blandford, exhibited another specimen with the merchant's mark. The shield is charged with a wheel and cross, with lateral branches placed between the letters T and N. Mr. Drach exhibited a late example in a silver matrix, belonging to his family at Frankfort-on-the-Maine. Mr. Cuming read a notice "On the Chancellor's Seal-Bag," and exhibited an early example from a statue in Rochester Cathedral, which, according to a communication from the Rev. R. Whiston, is that of Walter de Merton. The bag represented was clearly of leather, not of the present costly fabric. Mr. Corner produced a beautiful bowl, composed of fifteen strips of polished turbo shell riveted to a foot of gilt brass. These were in much estimation at the close of the sixteenth century. Mr. Curle exhibited a Mexican javelin-knife, of small size, for concealment about the person. It was engraved with foliated scrolls, and the words in Spanish "*Sirbo á mi dueño*"—(I serve my master). It was found in the Thames, in 1856. Mr. Syer Cuming read an interesting paper "On the Antiquity of Clasp-Knives." There are examples in the Etruscan Room at the British Museum, in bronze; and Mr. Cuming produced an Anglo-Saxon specimen, nearly five inches in length. Its material was iron for the blade, and pine-wood for the handle. Mr. Vere Irving read a portion of his late "Survey of the Ancient Earthworks in Norfolk;" and a "Discussion on the Venta Icenorum" was adjourned to the next meeting.

**ROYAL INSTITUTION.**—April 30th.—His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, President, in the chair. Professor Andrew C. Ramsay, F.R.S., "On the Geological Causes that have Influenced the Scenery of Canada and the North-Eastern Provinces of the United States." It is impossible thoroughly to explain all the points of this discourse without the aid of the pictorial illustrations and sections employed on the occasion, and therefore in this abstract only some of the leading geological features are noticed. The island of Belleisle and the Laurentine chain of mountains between the shores of Labrador and Lake Superior consist of gneissic rocks older than the Huronian formation of Sir Wm. Logan. This gneiss is probably the equivalent of the oldest gneiss of the Scandinavian chain, and of the north-west of Scotland, underlying that conglomerate, which, according to Sir Roderick Mur-

chison, in Scotland represents the Cambrian strata of the Longmynd and of Wales. The mountains of the Laurentine chain present those rounded contours that evince great glacial abrasion; and among the forests north of the Ottawa the mammillated surfaces were observed by the speaker to be often grooved and striated, the striations running from north to south. The whole country has been moulded by ice. Above the metamorphic rocks, in the plains of Canada and the United States, south of the St. Lawrence, and around Lake Ontario, and Lake Erie, the Silurian and Devonian strata lie nearly horizontally, but slightly inclined to the south. Consisting of alternations of limestone and softer strata, the rocks have been worn by denudation into a succession of terraces, the chief of these forming a great escarpment, part of which, by the river Niagara, overlooks Queenston and Lewiston, and, capped by the Niagara limestone, extends from the neighbourhood of the Hudson to Lake Huron. Divided by this escarpment, the plains of Canada bordering the lakes, and part of the United States, thus consist of two great plateaux, in the lower of which lies Lake Ontario, Lake Erie lying in a slight depression in the upper plain or table land, 329 feet above Lake Ontario. The lower plain consists mostly of Lower Silurian rocks, bounded on the north by the metamorphic hills of the Laurentine chain. The upper plain is chiefly formed of Upper Silurian and Devonian strata. East of the Hudson, the Lower Silurian rocks that form the lower plain of Canada become gradually much disturbed and metamorphosed, and at length, rising into bold hills trending north and south, form in the Green Mountains part of the chain that stretches from the southern extremity of the Appalachian mountains to Gaspé, on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Between the plains of the lakes and this range, the steep-terraced mass of the Catskills, formed of old red sandstone, lies above the Devonian rocks facing east and north in a grand escarpment. The whole of America south of the lakes as far as latitude 40°, is covered with glacial drift, consisting of sand, gravel, and clay, with boulders, many of which, during the submergence of the country, have been transported by ice several hundred miles from the Laurentine chain. Many of these are striated and scratched in a manner familiar to those conversant with glacial phenomena. When stripped of drift all the underlying rocks are evidently ice-smoothed and striated, the striation generally running more or less from north to south, indicating the direction of the ice-drift during the submergence of the country at the glacial period. The banks of the St. Lawrence, near Brockville, and all the Thousand Islands, have been rounded and *montonné* by glacial abrasion during the drift period. The submergence of the country was gradual, and the depth it attained is partly indicated in the east flank of the Catskill mountains. This range, near Catskill, runs north and south, about ten or twelve miles from the right bank of the Hudson. The undulating ground between the river and the mountains is seen to be covered with striations wherever the drift has been removed. These have a north and south direction; and ascending the mountains to Mountain House, the speaker observed that their flanks are marked by frequent grooves and glacial scratches, running not down hill, as they would do if they had been produced by glaciers, but north and south horizontally along the slopes, in a manner that might have been produced by bergs grating along the coast during submergence. These striations were observed to reach the height of 2,850 feet above the sea. In the gorge, where the hotel stands at that height, they turn sharply round, trending nearly east and west; as if at a certain period of submergence the floating ice had been at liberty to pass across its ordinary course in a strait between two islands. During the greatest amount of submergence of the country, the glacial sea in the valley of the

Hudson must have been between 3,000 and 4,000 feet deep, and it is probable that even the highest tops of the Catskills lie below the water. In Wales, it has been shown that during the emergence of the country in the glacial epoch, the drift in some cases was ploughed out of the valleys by glaciers; but though the Catskill mountains are equally high, in the valleys beyond the great eastern escarpment the drift still exists, which would not have been the case had glaciers filled these valleys during emergence in the way that took place in the passes of Llanberis and Nant-Francon, and in parts of the Highlands of Scotland. It has been stated above that the upper plain around Lake Erie, and the lower plain of Lake Ontario, are alike covered with drift. Part of this was formed, and much of it modified during the emergence of the country. In the valley of the St. Lawrence, near Montreal, about 100 feet above the river, there are beds of clay, containing *Leda Portlandica*, and called by Dr. Dawson, of Montreal, the *Leda-clay*. Dr. Dawson is of opinion that when this clay was formed, the sea in which it was deposited washed the base of the old coast line that now makes the great escarpment at Queenston and Lewiston overlooking the plains round Lake Ontario. It has long been an accepted belief that the Falls of Niagara commenced at the edge of this escarpment, and that the gorge has gradually been produced by the river wearing its way back for seven miles to the place of the present Falls. In this case, the author conceives that the Falls commenced during the deposition of the *Leda clay*, or near the close of the drift period, when, during the emergence of the country, the escarpment had already risen partly above water. If it should ever prove possible to determine the actual rate of recession of the Falls, we shall thus have data by which to determine approximately the time that has elapsed since the close of the drift-period; and an important step may thus be gained towards the actual estimate of a portion of geological time.

June 7th.—Lord Ashburton, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the chair. Professor Thomas Minchin Goodve, M.A., James Johnston, Esq., Mrs. Portlock, and Miss Anne Swanwick, were elected Members. Thanks were voted to Mr. J. P. Lacosta, Mr. H. Bradbury, Professor Huxley, Dr. E. Frankland, and Dr. J. Tyndall, for their discourses on May 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, and June 4th. The presents received since the last meeting were laid on the table, and the thanks of the Members returned for the same.

GEOLOGICAL.—May 26th.—Prof. Phillips, President, in the chair. Henry Duckworth, Esq., Liverpool, David C. Macconnel, Esq., Tooting Common, John Entwisle, Esq., Russell Square, and Frederick Drew, Esq., Geol. Survey of Great Britain, were elected Fellows. The following communications were read:—1. "On the Pleistocene Sea-bed of the Sussex Coast, being the Western Extension of the Raised Sea-beach of Brighton." By J. Prestwich, Esq., F.R.S., F.G.S. The author first observed that the well-known raised beach at Brighton, described by Dr. Mantell, has been since extended by Sir R. Murchison to Hove, and by Mr. Dixon to Lancing and Broadwater near Worthing; and that Mr. Godwin-Austen has described some marine beds, which he ascribes to the same age, on the coast between Bognor and Bracklesham. He then proceeded to state the results of his examination of the country between Brighton and Havant. Traces of this old sea-beach are, in Mr. Prestwich's opinion, to be seen on the slightly-raised ground at the base of the chalk-hills east of Arundel, at a distance of three or four miles from the sea. It is much more distinct westward of Arundel, and can be followed to near Chichester. In a wood at a short distance north of the road from Arundel to Chichester, and about two miles from the former, these beach-deposits appear as a bed of sand about

seven feet thick, with thin patches of shingle, and overlaid by subangular flint-gravel. On the brow of Avisford Hill the same bed of sand is seen to overlie the mottled clays; and in a sand-pit in the wood east of Slindon Common, similar pebbly sand, at least sixteen feet thick, is seen to be overlaid by partially-rounded flint-shingle, about three feet thick, and both to be covered by ferruginous sandy clay, full of large angular flints, which occupies also a furrow excavated through the shingle into the sand. A mass of brick-earth, 10 feet by 8, forms a core to the ferruginous clay in the furrow. It is to be remarked that the sand-bed is here about 100 feet above the sea-level; and also that it is intersected by a deep dell. The angular flint-gravel, underlain by the sands, stretches across Slindon Common, occurs at Boxgrove Common, and at intervals towards Goodwood. At Waterbeach, adjoining Goodwood, a sand-pit shows, in descending order: 1. ferruginous clay, full of angular flints, two to six feet; 2. chalk-rubble, about nine feet thick, containing small angular flints, and with a furrowed surface; 3. fine ash-coloured sand, slightly micaceous, with thin seams of concretionary sandstone, some few boulders of chalk, and friable shells. The shingle-bed, seen at Avisford, is here replaced by chalk-rubble, like that overlying the old beach at Brighton; but no shells nor bones were found. Shells of the common *Mytilus* and the edible *Cardium* are found in the sand, but they are usually very friable; and in the holes made by *Pholades* on the large lumps of hard white chalk occurring in this sand, specimens of *Purpura lapillus* occur, whilst small *Balan*i are attached to the surfaces of these chalk-boulders. A specimen of *Echinocyamus pusillus* was also met with. This sand-deposit, which the author believes to be identical with the old Brighton beach, he traces also westward of Goodwood to near Lavant, and probably to Bourne Common.—2. "On the Sedimentary and other External Relations of the Palaeozoic Fossils of the State of New York." By J. J. Bigsby, M.D., F.G.S. The objects proposed in this inquiry were: to give more precision to facts as yet imperfectly ascertained; to discover new materials for the history of these earliest times, and to treat of new points of connexion between the palaeozoic basins of New York and Wales. The first part of this memoir commenced with a few observations on the agencies by which the palaeozoic sediments or sea-bottoms were laid down, namely, 1st, the constant and superficial, or Neptunian, and 2nd, the modifying or occasional and subterranean (Plutonic); and then proceeded to describe their mineral character. In the second part, the distribution and immediate relations of palaeozoic animal life in the State of New York were considered; and in the third part the recurrence or vertical range of fossils was treated of in detail. Lastly, the results arrived at by the author were given as reflections presenting themselves on a survey of the ancient and vastly prolonged processes that laid down the palaeozoic strata of New York. The unity of design and predetermination of the complete idea manifest in these geological phenomena,—the evidences of direct creation and of occasional migrations,—the conditions of contemporaneity,—the relations of geographic and epochal centres of life,—the laws of recurrence of animal forms, or their reappearance in new epochs, and of the disappearance of Fauna,—and lastly the points of similarity and of dissimilarity between the palaeozoic rocks of Wales and New York, were, in the concluding portion of the memoir, fully dwelt upon.

LINNEAN.—May 24th.—Anniversary Meeting. Thomas Bell, Esq., President, in the chair. Dried specimens of the fronds and sections of the stems of several arborescent ferns from New Zealand, collected by himself, were presented by T. S. Ralph, Esq., A.L.S. A portrait of N. B. Ward, Esq., F.R.S. and L.S., painted by J. P. Knight, Esq., R.A., was presented by Mr. Bowerbank, on

the part of the subscribers. The following Fellows were elected as Members of the Council for the ensuing year, viz., C. C. Babington, W. B. Carpenter, Esq., M.A., Charles Darwin, Esq., Daniel Hanbury, Esq., and S. J. A. Salter, Esq., M.B. Thomas Bell, Esq., was re-elected President; Francis Booth, Esq., M.D., Treasurer; John J. Bennett, Esq., Secretary; and George Busk, Esq., Under-Secretary.

June 3rd.—Thomas Bell, Esq., President, in the chair. Woodyer Merricks Buckton, Esq., was elected a Fellow. The special thanks of the Society were directed to be presented to Professor Anderson, of Stockholm, for the very acceptable present of a cast from the bust of Linnaeus, in the Assembly Room of the Academy of Sciences, Stockholm. Read:—1. "The Death of the Common Hive-Bee, supposed to be occasioned by a Parasitic Fungus," by the Rev. H. Higgins. 2. "On some Points in the Anatomy of *Nautilus Pompilius*," by T. H. Huxley, Esq., F.R.S. 3. "Natural History: Extracts from the Journal of Captain Denham, H.M.'s Surveying Vessel *Herald*, in 1857-8," communicated by Captain Washington. 4. "Notice of the Discovery of a gigantic Species of *Equisetum*, upwards of 20 feet high, at Canals, in the Andes of Peru," by Mr. Richard Spruce. 5. "On the *Nidi* and Habits of a Species of *Lumbricus*, found in the London Clay, near Highgate," by J. W. Wetherall, Esq. 6. "Description of *Amorphopus*, a new Genus of *Crustacea*, of the Family of *Pinnotherida*," by Thomas Bell, Esq., President.

CHEMICAL.—May 20th.—Dr. Lyon Playfair, C.B., President, in the chair. Messrs. W. C. Paterson and G. Parry were elected Fellows. Dr. Angus Smith read a paper "On the Air of Towns." The author had not been able to detect ozone in the air of Manchester, but at some little distance it was easily recognizable when the wind was not blowing from the town. The air of Manchester was always acid, and the rain-water so acid as immediately to reddens litmus infusion. The author employed permanganate of potash as a re-agent for estimating the amount of organic matter in the air. Among other results, he found that a definite amount of a standard solution of the salt was decolorized by 22 measures of air from the high ground in the neighbourhood of Preston, by 9 measures of air from an open street in Manchester, by 5½ measures of air from between some small houses on the banks of the Medlock river, by 2 measures of air from a closed carriage full of passengers, and by 1 measure of air from the back yard of a house in a low and closely-built neighbourhood. A very noticeable difference was observed when blood was agitated with different varieties of air. Contrary to expectation, the air of the town was found to exert a greater reddening effect than the air of the sea-shore.

INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES.—June 5th.—Annua. General Meeting.—Charles Jellicoe, Esq., V.P., in the chair. Mr. J. Hill Williams, one of the Honorary Secretaries, read the report of the Council for the past session. The total number of members is 144; the receipts have been 263l. 3s. 10d., and the payments 290l. 4s. 6d. The legacy bequeathed by the late Mr. Messenger has been invested in the purchase of 180l. 3s. 11d. Three per Cent. Consols; and the Council has determined on applying the interest already received on this legacy as a prize for the best essay on a subject connected with assurance, to be selected by the council, the prize to be competed for by Associates of the Institute. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing session:—John Finalson, Esq., President; Peter Hardy, Esq., W. Barwick Hodge, Esq., C. Jellicoe, Esq., and Robert Tucker, Esq., Vice-Presidents; John Lawrence, Esq., Treasurer; John Reddiah, Esq., and John Hill Williams, Esq., Honorary Secretaries; Christian Child, Esq., John Berry Haycraft, Esq., and C. Watkins, Esq., Auditors.



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